World Teacher

– Other World Style Education & Agent –

– Volume 7 –

School

~ Royal Family Arc ~

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Chapter 38

Different from the Usual Image

(Elysion harvest festival.)

It is held in Elysion once every several years. It is a festival in hopes of an abundant harvest.

The festival involves the whole Elysion and lasts for up to several days. The whole city was bustling with excitement.

The schools were on break, but certain facilities in them seemed to be still open. As long as the students wished for it, they were allowed to open a shop in the battle arena, where Reus and I fought in that petty match – the 'Trade'. This setup was not for the nobles, but for the commoner students – to allow them to earn some money.

On a day, one month before the harvest festival, I was having tea in the principal's office after school.

"Out of all the various cakes Sirius-kun makes, the one I like the most is the Cheese Cake." (??)

"I think my favorite is the usual shortcake." (??)

The reason was to bring cakes to the headmaster.

Since the incident with the terrible killers, I have been to the headmaster's room many times and I became relaxed in many ways. The evidence being that it was no longer 'Vile-sensei' in front of me. Soon we finished the business side of things, then it became a talk about the upcoming harvest festival.

"During harvest festival, not only will the facilities at school be open, but the teachers will also be taking turns to oversee them." (Rodwell?)

“Nevertheless, the number of people attending is going to be huge, so it’s probably going to be difficult.” (Sirius?)

“That’s right. I’m going to be busy managing the students wanting to open shops and the big shot companies too. Do you have any plans for the harvest festival, Sirius-kun?” (Rodwell)

“Nothing in particular. I think I’ll just enjoy the festival from the side – walking around with my disciples.” (Sirius)

“That is good too, but how about selling these cakes? They are definitely going to be a big hit.” (Rodwell?)

“If I’m going to sell cakes, the demand from other people will increase and the number of cakes that I can give to you and Magna-sensei will…” (Sirius)

“I won’t allow Sirius-kun to open a shop. I won’t allow you to open shop even if I have to use my name.” (Rodwell)

‘The transition was really fast huh. He is being so serious about not allowing it. Is he doing that just because he wants to eat cake?’

Giving cakes to the headmaster and Magna-sensei is in order to be on good terms with them, but the main purpose is for them to owe me a favor.If it was only a cake, it wouldn’t be a big deal, but if I kept giving them away, it would turn in a ‘debt’. The truth is, I use it to obtain various things. Today, it seems I will be using it to obtain information.

“Oh yeah, the thing you wanted has arrived.” (Rodwell)

The thing, that was put on the table, was a green gem. It was about the size of my pinky finger, but even at such size it was somewhat expensive, since it’s rare.

This gem is a mana containing ore, that has been crystallizing for a long time. Generally, this thing is called a ‘Magic Stone’. Unlike common ore, this gem is excellent for drawing magic formations, since it contains mana.

“I wonder how much the price for a piece this size was?” (Sirius)

“8 gold coins. But it’s nothing if it is for Sirius-kun. It’s fine if you pay in installments…” (Rodwell)

“Here’s 8 gold coins. Please.” (Sirius)

I took out the money from my chest and put it on the table and the principle took it while stiffening a little. He probably thought that I wouldn’t have such money, but thanks to the Galgan company, I had considerable income.

Initially, I planned on asking the Galgan company, but unless they obtained permission from the guild, they wouldn’t be able to buy it. Therefore, I relied on the headmaster, but since Zack from the company said they will be getting permission soon, I will be able to get it through them eventually.

“You surprise me as usual. Leaving that aside, what do you intend to do with that ‘Magic Stone’?” (Rodwell)

“I plan on experimenting with whether I can draw a magic formation for my own original magic or not.” (Sirius)

What I want to establish a two-way communication using [Call]. My one way [Call] lacks in flexibility and I will be relieved to be able to get a response from my disciples. There is wind magic that can send information to partner by manipulating wind, but if I were to talk about it, I would be questioned about the way I obtained that knowledge. Also my [Call] reaches it’s target almost certainly. The main selling point is,that it can be used entirely like a mobile phone. By all means I want to make use of the magic formation. That’s the reason why I didn’t hesitate to buy it even though the ‘Magic Stone’ is expensive.

The headmaster was surprised hearing my words. He held his head and groaned.

“… I don’t know what your original magic is, but it will be a huge accomplishment, if you can create a new magic formation. Since there is a possibility, that you will be targeted by foolish magic engineers, by no means talk about it in public.” (Rodwell)

“I know that.” (Sirius)

After all, the one that will use it will be me and my disciples. It is peaceful around here, but since there are countries going to war in order to expand their territories, if [Call] was to be exposed, it will be stolen immediately and used in the wars. Dispute is a human nature. I’m not saying I am against war, but please don’t blame me if this makes it worse.

“I heard you want travel after graduation. I wonder if you plan on becoming an adventurer.” (Rodwell)

“Yes, I want to see various things around the world.” (Sirius)

“This way of thinking is very good. You probably won’t have any problems being able to the extent that you are, but honestly for me, it is regrettable. If you were not a student, I would like to employ you as the chef of my house, but…” (Rodwell)

“Are you kidding me?” (Sirius)

“No, I’m serious.” (Rodwell)

‘Oi, aren’t you having a face that is more serious than a while ago? I don’t dislike cooking, because it is my hobby, but I don’t plan on making a living out of it.’

“Thinking about Sirius-kun not being here in two years, I won’t be able to eat the cake anymore approximately, right? Haa…although the cakes are so delicious.” (Rodwell)

“I have some good news about that.” (Sirius)

The truth is, I’m thinking of selling the cake recipe to the Galgan company soon. Nonetheless, the most important thing is not the recipe or the materials, but producing magic tools to replace the oven. Although the method that I use to make cake is by using my original magic tool, I also think about selling the manufacturing process of oven-ish magic tools to the Galgan company.

But still, I'm not going to spread it thoughtlessly even if it's just the oven magic tool. In relation of magic, I explained to the headmaster in full details about the existence of oven-ish magic tools. Since the real thing is quite big, I decided to explain it by writing instead of drawing.

Despite knowing that I will not be here as well as the matter of not being able to eat cakes, the headmaster had shining eyes when he heard about this magic tool for the first time.

"Hoo… I see. A magic tool that uniformly heats the whole thing by having a heat magic formation in all four directions, right? Dear me, this interesting magic tool is extremely original." (Rodwell)

"So, how about it? Will there any problem if it is spread around?" (Sirius)

"You are going to sell this to the Galgan company, right? If that's the case, it will be the Galgan company's responsibility. So, it is unnecessary for Sirius-kun to worry about it. I am, more or less, going to keep an eye on it, but should I talk with the representative of the Galgan company at least once?" (Rodwell)

"Is it about the risks of getting the magic tool spread?" (Sirius)

"If they can mass produce the cake, then I want first priority." (Rodwell)

"Oi." (Sirius)

For a while now, this person has been going a bit too far. This is proof of me having a good relationship with the headmaster. If those who admire the headmaster saw him like this, won't they feel disappointed? Well, he will probably be alright if he shows such optimism. I would like to think like that also.

After mentioning the frightening illnesses that one can get as a result of overeating cakes, I left the headmaster's office.

I, who left the headmaster's office, went to the training ground where my disciples were waiting.

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The training ground at school is big. There are many scarecrows lining up side-by-side and it is used for magic shooting or sword swinging practice. And then, Reus was silently swinging a sword in a simple ring made for the sake of competing. The area around him was littered with the 'corpses' of the people that competed with him.

"Aa, Aniki! Are you done!?" (Reus)

"Indeed,however are you done as well?" (Sirius)

When he saw me, he jumped out of the ring and over the 'corpses', and came in my direction while wagging his tail.

"Of course, wouldn't you agree? I'm already in perfect condition." (Reus)

"It doesn't seem like there are anymore symptoms of the previous injuries left." (Sirius)

Half a month have passed since the terrible killers' incident, both Emilia and Reus have

recovered completely and they are continuing their training. Reus can defeat the opponents, who are his underlings, easily. When I look properly, the noble, Hald was also one of those collapsed on the floor. Although, this doesn't mean weird things. *(EDN: Meaning he isn't Reus' underling)*

"Where are Emilia and Reese?" (Sirius)

"Nee-chan is running around the outer border of school, so I think she will return soon. Reese-ane said she went back home, since she got called from her household." (Reus)

"From her household… huh. I wonder what would happen if Emilia heard about this?" (Sirius)

The moment I looked in the direction where Emilia would be coming back from running, I saw her running figure. There are ten persons behind her. It seems she was running while leading her classmates.

“Sirius-samaaa!” (Emilia)

… But, as soon as she saw my figure, she abandoned her leading role outran her classmate to come to me. She stopped in front of me with a big smile on her face, while wagging her tail the same way as Reus, then she adjusted her dress and bowed.

“Good job. Are you done with your stuff?” (Emilia)

“Well, I’m done but… aren’t you still in the middle of leading them?” (Sirius)

“Oh yeah, please wait a minute.” (Emilia)

She bowed once more, then she ran to her classmates. After joining the classmates that she led and confirming everyone’s physical condition after reaching the goal, she returned to where I am.

“Thank you for waiting.” (Emilia)

“I appreciate your efforts. Did everyone ask you to lead?” (Sirius)

“That’s right. They said they wanted to know the secret of our strength. I ran rather lightly though…” (Emilia)

All classmates, who ran together, were not moving because they collapsed, trying to catch their breath. The differences were obvious, when compared to Emilia – she was laughing and smiling without breathing disorderly.

“Well anyway, they will realize the hard truth. By the way, has Emilia heard anything about Reese?” (Sirius)

“I also haven’t heard the details. A messenger from her household came a while ago and after they talked, she said that she needs to go home and left the school.” (Emilia)

“How did she look?” (Sirius)

“She made a very difficult face. I’m certain there was something going on.” (Emilia)

Since the incident, the condition of the siblings was perfect, but Reese was acting strange. Maybe I should check on her, because she was behaving strangely on many occasions.

“I guess so. Anyhow, can you talk to her at least once when she comes back? In her case, she probably won’t tell anything unless you push her a little.” (Sirius)

“Should I try following her by her smell?” (Emilia)

“I understand that you worry about her to the point of wanting to chase after her, but please stop it. At least it doesn’t seem a life-threatening situation.” (Sirius)

Emilia closed her eyes comfortably, when I patted her head in order to deceive her. Since I found out recently about her soft spot, which was at the root of her ear, I gently brushed that spot and continued doing that as long as she wanted. On the other had if I wanted to suppress them than all I had to do was to press on their heads with my hand.

“Aniki! Me too, me too!” (Reus)

“Aah, yes yes.” (Sirius)

Reus likes when I lightly massage his wolf ears. When he feels good, he will say ‘Ooo…’ or something, but it looks suspicious if it is seen from the side.

At least these two didn’t become spoiled.

“Haa… I’m satisfied. Well then, I’m going to talk about Sirius-sama’s magnificence with everyone.” (Emilia)

“Stop it!” (Sirius)

What are you planning to tell your classmates with that ecstatic expression? I’m seriously scared that they are going to worship me like some kind strange religion. For that reason I’m determined not to allow anything like that to happen. The atmosphere would be too unbearable.

I somehow managed to stop Emilia. Then the classmates, who had reached their limit, left.

The practice at school was finished, so we headed to the town without Reese.

We're going out to shop because we are running out of flavorings and cooking ingredients. We walked on a street that is similar to a shopping district, we visited various shops, from ones we were familiar with to ones that we visited for the first time. Reus was somewhat amazed at me visiting several shops without a purpose.

"Aniki likes to look at various shops huh." (Reus)

"That's right. However, that's because I can come up with new cuisine, when I do this over and over again, so isn't being good at this not a good thing?" (Sirius)

"This is an important matter!" (Reus)

It's good thing that he understood. We continued going from one shop to another and we went to the Galgan company last. There are a lot of things which are only available here. And above all, it's because I planned to discuss the talk I had with Rodwell earlier.

"Welcome, Danna. What sort of business do you have today?" (Zack)

"I came here to buy flavorings and other things, and also to discuss about cakes?" (Sirius)

"Are you finally going to teach us!? As expected of Danna! This is not the place for this discussion, so let's head to president's office." (Zack)

"Zack-san, let me borrow the kitchen." (Emilia)

"Please do as you please. Come, let's go inside." (Zack)

I entered the president's office at the guidance of Zack, but somehow I'm being treated like the president. In reality, I thought nothing would be said even if I sat down, just like that, on president's chair in the office.

"Although Zack-niichan should be the most important person here, Aniki seems like the person holding highest position. How about sitting on the seat over there, Aniki?" (Reus)

“Haha, it’s not necessarily wrong. It’s true that I am the most important person here, but I am not yet that outstanding. If it wasn’t for Danna’s knowledge, I wouldn’t have been able to reach this point. I have no problem at all if you want to sit on that chair, you know. How about becoming the representative of this branch instead of me?” (Zack)

“No, thank you.” (Sirius)

What a terrible thing to say. Reus has very good intuition. It’s scary that Zack was going to hand over the president’s chair so easily.

While I shivered at those two who had similar thinking, Emilia came with a tray borrowed from the kitchen where she prepared some drinks.

“Here you go. The black coffee is for Sirius-sama, right?” (Emilia)

“Thank you.” (Sirius)

Emilia poured black liquid into the cup without even making a noise. I could smell the calm aroma that was spreading around the room. This is what you call coffee. The other day, I finally managed to find something like a coffee bean.

A certain tribe opened a booth. When I examined it, I discovered by chewing that it had something similar to coffee and I was right. That tribe doesn’t only eat the coffee bean, but also raises battle morale by chewing roasted seeds. It seems popular baked or in other words roasted, but from there, I thought of drinking it after grinding it.

I didn’t think about the quality, but rather about drinking a coffee after all this time. I even handed in a gold coin and bought the coffee seeds and then I took it to the Galgan company, roasted it and sampled it. It is more or less because of habit, but it feels good when tasting the unique bitterness, flavor and aroma of the coffee itself, for the first time in a while. By the way, Reus tried mimicking me by chugging the coffee without sugar, but he spat it out like a mist, what a useless new way to get scolded by Emilia.

“Zack-san, you can put a little of sugar and milk, you know that, right?” (Emilia)

“Thank you, it’s an honor to learn until I have my own preference. Yeah, it has very good aroma.” (Zack)

“Reus, here’s a lot of sugar and milk.” (Emilia)

“Thank you, Nee-chan.” (Reus)

The color of Reus’ coffee had already changed, instead of coffee, it became cafe au lait. As you know, I think I’m glad I enjoy coffee.

“The mass production of curry spices has started. In addition, a coffee bean deal has been made with said tribe and we have begun the preparations to order. It will become a stable supply soon for Danna.” (Zack)

“I’m very grateful, as always. Now, to the main issue. About cakes…” (Sirius)

When I gave a cake to Zack, he of course showed interest. However, there is a special characteristic of the so-called oven, so I purposely refused to sell it for the sake of flattering the headmaster. This time, since I got an official permission from the headmaster, I could teach the method for producing the oven and cakes. Taking this opportunity, I conveyed that the headmaster wanted to get contract at once.

“Uhii… it’s unthinkable situation for me to talk to headmaster by myself.” (Zack)

“Even if he is just an elf who loves cakes?” (Sirius)

“Only Danna would think like that! Since the social status of that person himself is as high as royalties. My neck will probably get severed if I’m careless, you know!” (Zack)

It’s true that the person himself is strong and a big-wig, but since I continued seeing the figure of him enjoying the cakes along with Magna-sensei, the feeling of majesticness is somewhat not there anymore. Although I haven’t seen any symptoms, I’m still worried about them getting diabetes from overeating cakes. Therefore, I recently made a recommendation to be moderate and to consider their physical condition. But why am I worrying to such extent?

“When I meet him next time, I will tell him about you, Zack. Since the person himself is polite unless if he got provoked, it’s enough if you speak with him just like I do.” (Sirius)

“U-understood. I’m still learning about courtesy, but I’ll try my best. Even so, I will inform you whenever I’m open for business.” (Zack)

“Please do inform me. Next, I entrust you with this order.” (Sirius)

What I handed was a purchase order to buy ingredients and flavorings. This order was handled by no one else other than the Galgan company. Zack skimmed through, and then he called his female secretary and handed the list over.

“Once I confirm the stock, I will deliver them to the Diamond Cottage. So please wait for it.” (Zack)

“I’m sorry but since I’m going to bring the meat and a little bit of the spices back home, can you wrap it up please?” (Sirius)

“Sure, no problem, but what are you going to be eating today? I found a new shop, you know?” (Zack)

Whenever I come to the Galgan company, going out with Zack for a meal was the usual course of event. But Reese wasn’t with us today. Since she probably arrived at the Diamond cottage, I’m not going to leave the Diamond cottage empty.

“I’m not going to leave Reese alone. I’m sorry, but I have to decline today.” (Sirius)

“Understood. Please wait for a while, since it will take a while to prepare it.” (Zack)

The female secretary elegantly took the list, so I only needed to wait. Since the business side of things was over, my disciples and I continued chatting with Zack while waiting. Then the content of our talks changed to the upcoming harvest festival in the neighborhood.

“Harvest festival? The Galgan company is planning to sell the crepes that Danna thought up. While cake is also ok, it would be quite impossible during the festival?” (Zack)

“Since the headmaster will get noisy when it comes to cakes, try your best not to compromise.” (Sirius)

“I’ll work hard. Apart from that, did you know about this? The king’s only daughter, Princess Lifell, is going to married soon?” (Zack)

I was aware of it since it has become a subject of gossip even in school.

The present king, Cardeas Bartfeld, has several sons but only one daughter. Princess Lifell, who is the only daughter, seems to be a very beautiful and intelligent person. It was a good year but it seems the king was getting impatient, because she hadn’t found a marriage partner yet. However, it seems they finally found a candidate recently, so the raised clamor is at the same level as the harvest festival.

“I am aware about this but why did are we talking about it?” (Sirius)

“No no, I mean if I send a congratulatory cake, don’t you think that the Galgan company’s shares will rise up exponentially?” (Zack)

“What an indomitable commercialism. Although I am not sure when the cake and the marriage will happen, do work hard.” (Sirius)

“Galgan will work hard, since we are in our top form. First, I’m going to meet and have a talk with the person in charge of preparing the meals.” (Zack)

The chat continued afterwards. Once we received the things we ordered, we left the Galgan company.

“We were able to receive a delicious meat. What are we eating today?” (Emilia)

“Well… I wonder if I should make Roast Beef again.” (Sirius)

“So good, Aniki. I’m just going to slice it up and bite it as it is.” (Reus)

“We’re going to leave a share for Reese, you know. If she doesn’t come back today or tomorrow, I might cry.” (Emilia)

“She’s not going to cry about us not leaving her any, but at the very least she will feel frustrated. Reese may not look like it, but she is quite the glutton.” (Sirius)

“… You mean Reese-ane?” (Reus)

While thinking about our plans for this evening, we continued walking on the road to the Diamond Cottage. Then, Reus turned to Emilia and I with a difficult face.

“What is it Reus?” (Sirius)

“Yeah. Aniki, Nee-chan. What will Reese-ane do when she graduates from school?” (Reus)

“That is… I also haven’t heard about it.” (Emilia)

When we graduate from school, I have decided to go on trip around the world. It is simply because we don’t have place to call home,so we can go on a trip as adventurer without reserve.

On the other hand, Reese has a home and a family, but… what does she want to do after graduation? It remained unknown… like the secrets that she holds.

“Reese-ane… won’t she come together with us?” (Reus)

“… Well. I think I will be glad if we can travel together. However, I cannot force her to do that.” (Sirius)

“How do you feel about Reese-ane, Aniki?” (Reus)

How do I feel about Reese… huh?

Recently, there are many occasions where she looks at me like I am her father and I also think of her as a cute daughter.

She is a kind-hearted girl, who became close friends with Emilia. If I am to be honest, I like her both as a disciple and as a girl. It will be good if she can travel together with us, but she has circumstances at her home. I wonder what she is thinking.

“I also think that it will be fine if she can travel together with us. Well, even if the person herself says she wants to go, it will be opposed by her household, since she is a noble.” (Sirius)

“Yeah. But, we need talk about this with Reese at least once.” (Emilia)

“First of all, what will happen after that. She will probably be stopped by her household even if the person herself wants to go… so do you think we should run away with Reese? We will become wanted men.” (Sirius)

“That also may happen, right? Well even if I were to become a fugitive, I would still accompany her anywhere.” (Emilia)

“Me too!” (Reus)

“Still, I don’t want to become a wanted man, because I like my freedom.” (Sirius)

I said it jokingly, but if she were to have problems with her household and her parents, I think I will seriously kidnap Reese. She is not only an important child for me, but also for the siblings. And above all, she is my third disciple. It’s natural to save her, if she is in trouble.

After having dinner, Emilia waited until the last moment before going to bed, but she didn’t return after all.

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In conclusion, she returned two days later.

The school was on break at that time. We were about to begin our training after lunch in Diamond Cottage. We somehow felt something and we turned our attention to the road that leads to school.

"… Aniki. I smell something is coming here at a great speed." (Reus)

"I know. Judging from this reaction… is it a horse carriage?" (Sirius)

"Is it from the Galgan company? But, the things we ordered have already arrived yesterday, haven't they?" (Emilia)

The horse carriage that came shortly after was not from the Galgan company, but the speed was unusual when I examined it by using [Search]. The horse ran like it was chased by something and it arrived within several minutes. Just in case, we prepared for battle in advance.

I saw a high grade carriage, that was of quality similar to the ones nobles use, and soon after it stopped a little before us. Looking at the coachman who tried to calm down the horse, the interior part was not visible. The door of the carriage opened and Reese jumped out from inside. She appeared with great impact yet again.

"Sirius-san, I'm glad that you are here!" (Reese)

Although she was in hurry, she was relieved as soon as she saw my figure. However, she immediately became serious. She stood in front of us and bowed deeply.

"I have something to ask of you. Will you come together with me on this carriage?" (Reese)

"Reese, what on earth has happened to you? To suddenly come without warning…" (Emilia)

"I'll talk about the details as we move. Though this is too sudden and you may be troubled. Please, please come with me!" (Reese)

"… Is it something important?" (Sirius)

I wasn't sure why she was in hurry, but I decided to go. I had resolved myself to help her if she was ever in trouble, so this was exactly the time. Being delighted with my words she took and held my hand tightly.

"Thank you very much. Nothing else is necessary, if Sirius-san is coming." (Reese)

"Reese, is it not ok for us to come along?" (Emilia)

"Am I also no good, Reese-ane?" (Reus)

"… I want you both to come along too. Because… I want you to know everything about me." (Reese)

It was decided that all of us were going. We embarked on the carriage without bringing anything but the clothes on our backs. When Reese called out to the coachman, the horse carriage started running immediately and left Diamond Cottage. The speed of the carriage was fast even after the number of it's passengers increased. It ran past the school and out of the town in no time.

In the meantime, we thoroughly enjoyed the high grade interior of the horse carriage, that was rarely seen. The carriage was not too big, but four people could comfortably fit in – with Reus next to me and Emilia and Reese on the opposite side.

"This is amazing, Aniki. The chair is so soft. It would feel good if I could lie down." (Reus)

"That's disgraceful, Reus. Sorry for being noisy, Reese." (Emilia)

"Well yeah, it's alright. Even I wanted to lie down when I got in here for the first time." (Reese)

Reese' expression softens considerably and she smiled at Reus and Emilia, maybe because she felt relieved that we were here. However, I could feel that she was tired, when I looked at her properly. Something obviously happened. If the situation around her was not explained, there was nothing to be done. I wanted an explanation from her.

“So… what on earth has happened?” (Sirius)

“Yes, please let me explain. Nevertheless, from now on everyone will probably get involved in some unexpected things, if you decide to listen to this talk. But still, I… have no one else to rely on except Sirius-san.” (Reese)

“It’s fine, you can talk freely. I am your Shishou and your friend. You can count on me.” (Sirius)

“I’m not sure what I can do but I will help you too, Reese.” (Emilia)

“Is there anything I can help with, Reese-ane?” (Reus)

“Thank you… very much.” (Reese)

She straightened herself up, while tearing up a little. She opened her mouth, while staring at me who was in front of her.

“The matter about me being an illegitimate child of certain noble is a lie. My real name is Faeris. My family name is… Bardfeld. My Otou-sama is Elysion’s King!”

Reese said she was the daughter of royals. Maybe no one else, but the officials, knows about this. Even a person with the standing of the headmaster, Rodwell, did not know about it. The Reese, who was being honest closed her eyes as if waiting to endure something.

“… So, I wonder what I should call you.” (Sirius)

“Eh!? T-that is… I want you to call me, Reese, like always.” (Reese)

“Should I use honorific, Reese-ane?” (Reus)

“Please stop that. I want everyone to act as usual.” (Reese)

“If that’s the case, we will act like before.” (Sirius)

“… You’re not surprised huh. That is somewhat unexpected.” (Reese)

Apart from me, the siblings weren't surprised, because they were not involved with royals. The house where I was born was a closed world. So, we had nowhere to get information about the world. Maybe because the siblings think that I am more amazing than the king, they don't feel that children of celebrities are anything special.

Reese shed tears, while talking with mixed feelings, but her face was beaming.

"Really… and I thought I was alone… what a fool I am." (Reese)

"Even if you said that, Reese doesn't emit the feeling of royalty, right?" (Sirius)

"Yeah. Reese-ane, rather than wearing pretty dresses, looks the best when eating Aniki's meal happily." (Reus)

"What was that? But… I'm happy. Thank you." (Reese)

Reese, who was overcome with feeling, grabbed the siblings' hands and embraced them with both hands. Both of them were a little bit embarrassed, but they seemed delighted feeling the warmth of Reese's hands.

"I'm not bothered by such things like the royals. Reese should have something more to tell, so can you continue?" (Sirius)

"Yes, from here on, please take care of me." (Reese)

"Leave it to me." (Sirius)

I laughed at the smiling Reese.

I am not surprised about her background, because for me being a noble or royalty is irrelevant. If someone became my disciple, I'll treat them equally. Even if the king intervenes, I don't have any intentions to change my policy at all.

When I suddenly looked outside the horse carriage, the scenery was gorgeous and it was scenery where big buildings were lined up. This is probably the neighborhood where no

one but nobles reside. A commoner like me is expected to not be able to enter a place like this. To bring me here in a hurry… what is going on?

“Now, would you tell me the reason, why I was invited?” (Sirius)

“Yes…” (Reese)

She lowered her head deeply and asked me earnestly.

“My Ane-sama… Princess Lifell… I want you to medically examine her.” (Reese)

◆ ◆ ◆

(Author note: Most people probably expected this, but Reese is in fact royalty, not a noble.)

Extra/Bonus

Some time later… these are some fragments from the letters between Emilia and Noel.

Emilia

“Onee-chan, Sirius-sama’s splendour is not being properly conveyed to everybody. I was stopped by Sirius-sama.”

Noel

“Don’t worry, Emi-chan. Since we are working on this ‘mission’ already!”

… These contents were leaked and stopped by Sirius.

Chapter 39

The Elder Sister, Princess Lifell

"My Ane-sama… Princess Lifell… I want you to medically examine her." (Reese)

Reese pled me.

"You want me to examine her… Is your sister, Princess Lifell sick or something?" (Sirius)

"I'm not sure about that. Three days ago she suddenly became ill, and the symptoms have only worsened ever since…" (Reese)

"What about the treatment?" (Sirius)

"My healing spells were effective. The symptoms lightened, but as soon as I stopped applying treatment, she began to suffer again…" (Reese)

"Whenever you stopped using your healing magic, you saw her suffer again, huh?" (Sirius)

She was worn out, was that the recoil of rapid healing magic use? I think she used magic until she reached her limit, because she was that desperate. But, was it because there was no improvement to be seen at all, that made it so she came and consulted with me even if it was going to get me involved in the problems of the royalty?

"A short while after my Kaa-sama died I got really worried, because I was told by a messenger that I am from the royal family. I was brought from the place where I used to live to the castle and as I was worrying about what on earth will happen to me… Ane-sama saved me." (Reese)

Reese continued speaking about the situation at that time. Apparently she was taken in by her father – the King, and when she met him, she was treated coldly. Reese looked like she

was going to cry any time soon. Princess Lifell seems to have helped her in various ways during that time.

She thought it was unlucky for Reese, as a former commoner, to get involved with the obligations of royalty, so her sister suggested for her to hide her social status even when going to school.

“Thanks to Ane-sama, I was able to go to school, and then I met Emilia, Sirius-san and Reus. Although my benefactor is suffering, I can’t do anything. Please! Please… please help Ane-sama.” (Reese)

Reese was frustrated with her powerlessness. She trembled while covering her face with her hands. Emilia drew closer and embraced Reese, while gently patting her back to calm her down.

“I want to meet this person soon. Please introduce us.” (Emilia)

“Me too!” (Reus)

“Emilia, Reus… Yeah, I will introduce my friends.” (Reese)

“Of course, introduce me too as Reese’s Shishou. Although, I’m not sure if they will believe that.” (Sirius)

This is because I am younger than Reese and I have the appearance of just a child. They won’t arrest us for such a nonsensical talk right, saying that I’m her Shishou. It was probably only my imagination, but Reese laughed a little.

“Reese, I don’t know the situation around your Nee-san. Therefore, can you give us some information now? You can regret it later, right?” (Sirius)

“Yeah… right. You mean those circumstances right? What shall I talk about?” (Emilia)

“First of all, what are the symptoms of her sickness? And the details of the day and time when they appeared. Furthermore did she suffer from major diseases in the past?” (Sirius)

Honestly, I want to help with a solution, but I don't know how she got sick. As for the details, I can get them after I examine the person herself, but I should make good use of the time we have en route to our destination to gather information.

◆ ◆ ◆

After several minutes, we arrived at a place that was a bit disconnected from the area where the nobles reside.

In a mansion, where dozens of people can live comfortably, there was a well-kept large garden. Although the other nobles' houses were luxurious, this one was on a different level.

"My family usually lives in the castle, but right now Ane-sama is resting here, ever since she got sick." (Reese)

"Since this matter is not known by the public, is there an order to prevent the spread of the news for the time being?" (Sirius)

"That's right. Since the talk about the engagement has appeared, these ominous news are covered up." (Reese)

As we got off from the horse carriage, while listening to Reese's explanations, we saw several men and women come out from the mansion and head in our direction. They wore something resembling a maid dress and a butler tailcoat, so I understood that they were servants of this mansion.

"Welcome back, Reese-sama. Who on earth are these people?" (??)

A young woman in a maid dress, who seemed to be the representative of the servants, lowered her head at Reese and looked at us. This person was a rabbit beastkin, she had sharp ears on her head and a round tail on her butt.

She was a good looking woman, but she didn't seem like a normal servant with those sharp eyes. There is no mistake that she she gives off a feeling of being experienced in battles. Perhaps, if I tried to harm Reese, she would take my life without hesitation.

Reese introduced us in hurry since she was being careful with us who came along with her.

“I’m back, Senia. These people here are my friends…” (Reese)

“Faeris-sama! Where have you been?” (??)

But, one man interrupted her.

The young man wore blue color light armor and a sword with gorgeous decorations. I imagine him being part of the Imperial Guards for the king.

I could see an energetic young man, but he was looking here severely. No… from what I could tell he was looking at Emilia and Reus?

“Besides, why on earth are you leading these two beastkin here!? Even though the princess is in such a situation!” (??)

“Silence, Melt.” (Senia)

“Say what!?” (Melt)

“Reese-sama can’t talk if you are talking. By the way, I am the superior here. So, who are you, to disturb explanation from the younger sister of Lifell-sama, Reese-sama!?” (Senia)

“Kuhh…” (Melt)

The rabbit-kin, Senia, was apparently his superior. The man called Melt withdrew to the back, while being annoyed. Since the gloomy mood was dissipated, Senia gave an indication for Reese to continue.

“Err… These are my friends, Emilia and Reus. And this is their master, Sirius-san.” (Reese)

“Nice to meet you, my name is Sirius.” (Sirius)

“My name is Emilia.” (Emilia)

“I am Reus.” (Reus)

The maids, including Senia, were surprised when we greeted with Kaa-san’s trademark bow. Displaying courtesy seemed to have an effect, because their cautiousness lessened a bit. As one would expect from Kaa-san’s technique.

“This is a very courteous of you. My name is Senia, I am a special attendant for Lifell-sama. Since you are Reese-sama’s friends, we welcome all of you.” (Senia)

When Senia greeted us with same level of greeting as ours, several maids and butlers at the back bowed. It looked like there were factions among them, since not everyone bowed, but let’s leave this matter behind for now.

“I’m sorry, Senia. Although I wanted to take more time introducing them, I want these three to meet Ane-sama as soon as possible.” (Reese)

“But, Reese-sama, Lifell-sama is sick…” (Senia)

“What are you talking about!?” (Melt)

Once again, the man called Melt interrupted. He glared in our direction without hiding his bloodlust as if he was going to draw his sword at any time.

“What are you thinking to let these commoners to see the princess who is suffering from an illness? Even if she was not sick, I, as the Imperial Guard, would not allow this!” (Melt)

“Don’t say such a thing! There is a high chance of Ane-sama getting cured. Please!” (Reese)

“No way!” (Melt)

This man seemed to be typical obstinate type, but there was truth in what he said. Despite of Reese’s introduction, it may be an impossible task to let suspicious commoners see the princess of a country. But still, Reese didn’t stop, she held Senia’s hands while clinging to her.

“Please, Senia. If we leave this to Sirius-san, surely… yeah, he will definitely able to do something for Ane-sama.” (Reese)

“Reese-sama…” (Senia)

Senia closed her eyes to consider, while Melt was still making noise. After several minutes had passed, she slowly opened her eyes and made her way to the mansion.

“Welcome everyone. Lifell-sama is resting in the inner room.” (Senia)

“You bastard! How dare you disregard my opinion as an Imperial Guard!?” (Melt)

“My order takes precedence in this mansion. Besides, it is alright for the Imperial Guard to come too. If they take a hostile action, move without reservation as the Imperial Guard.” (Senia)

“That’s right. I’ll cut them down without mercy, if they show any suspicious behavior.” (Melt)

“Senia…” (Reese)

“I’m sorry. Since what Melt said is reasonable, please forgive me for bringing him along.” (Senia)

“Yes, thank you, Senia!” (Reese)

When Reese embraced Senia, her face was full of affection. That expression, that resembled Erina, made Emilia and Reus smile nostalgically.

Reese doesn’t hold prejudice to beastkin, so she could make friends with Emilia immediately. It is probably thanks to Senia.

“Sirius-san, let’s go.” (Reese)

“Aah.” (Sirius)

“This way.” (Senia)

◆ ◆ ◆

Reese, we and that Imperial Guard – Melt were led into the mansion by Senia.

The insides of the mansion were grand too – equipped with luxurious decorations and sofas. We were led to the inner part of the mansion and while we were looking around, Emilia and Reus had to wearily look back at Melt many times. It couldn’t be helped, because Melt had been releasing bloodlust since a while ago, but why on earth was he being cautious about us, who didn’t even have weapons.

“Melt, please control your bloodlust. Why are you getting excited about with children as your opponents?” (Senia)

“I’m only making sure they aren’t doing unnecessary things.” (Melt)

“Whatever it is, please control your bloodlust. We’re going to reach Lifell-sama’s bedroom soon, so is this the work of an Imperial Guard – baring such bloodlust towards his master?” (Senia)

“…There is no other way then.” (Melt)

By the time Melt reigned in his bloodlust, we arrived in front of a magnificence door. Perhaps, Reese’ older sister, Princess Lifell, is on the other side of this door.

Senia knocked on the door asking a question and a voice could be heard from the inside.

“Lifell-sama, Reese-sama just got back. She requests for you to meet her friends, will that be alright?” (Senia)

“Reese’s friends!? She finally invited them. Please come in right away.” (Lifell)

“Please come in, everyone.” (Senia)

When Senia opened the door and invited us to enter, Reese jumped in first and we followed her.

There were numerous books organized in Princess Lifell's room, I couldn't help seeing at this room as a library. On the bed equipped with canopy in the corner of the room a woman with straight long red hair grown until her waist raised the upper half of her body and turned her face in our direction.

"Ane-sama, I'm back." (Reese)

"Welcome back, Reese. Even though you went out in a hurry, it was just to invite your friend." (Lifell)

The princess called Lifell was really beautiful. She probably lost a bit of weight, because of the illness, but there was no doubt she had an illness just looking at her bright red eyes.

"Yes, Ane-sama. However, is your physical condition alright? Since I have recovered a bit of my mana, should I treat you with healing magic again?" (Reese)

"Stop being unreasonable. Didn't you collapse earlier?" (Lifell)

"Compared to Ane-sama, this much is nothing." (Reese)

"But even if I get healed, the pain will come back again. Leaving that aside, will you introduce the children at the back? I must greet the children that you proudly talked about." (Lifell)

"Proud… what does she mean, Reese?" (Emilia?)

"Fu, do you mean that's normal!? Ane-sama too, don't say strange things!" (Reese)

Reese was flustered, but it looked like she finally returned back to normal. In other words, Princess Lifell is a reliable companion that Reese trusts, because she showed the same appearance as when she is with us.

“Anyhow, let me introduce them. This child is Emilia. She is the first friend that I made in school.” (Reese)

“Nice to meet you, my name is Emilia. I have always been helped by Reese.” (Emilia)

“A polite child as I’ve heard earlier. Yes, I can’t help saying that she is similar to Senia.” (Lifell)

“Right, Ane-sama!?” (Reese)

“How did you get to know Emilia? Because this child has been spoiled by Senia ever since she came here, she is awfully nice to beastkin. Therefore, when you became friends, I was really pleased that you made a friend similar to Senia.” (Lifell)

“Ane-sama… please stop it.” (Reese)

She was a princess of an entire country and yet she was strangely talkative and outspoken. She may be like that only to her sister, but I don’t dislike it. Reese’ face reddened and she continued waving at Princess Lifell.

“You’re cute when you’re blushing. Oh yes, although you may already know this, my name is Lifell. By the way… Emilia’s silver hair is really beautiful. May I touch it?” (Lifell)

“If you are fine with my hair.” (Emilia)

“Hime-sama! Even though you are sick, why do you want to touch beastkin!?” (Melt)

“Well, I don’t mind at all. Since I should paying attention to this, I think that you are losing your hair. I’ll check to make!” (Lifell)

Even though Melt brought the meal to the corner of the room, Princess Lifell didn’t look at him at all and she touched Emilia’s hair.

“Amazing… it is so silky and I can’t really hold it. How did you become so beautiful?” (Lifell)

“It is thanks to my master… Sirius-sama. We were given balanced meals above all everyday and were taught the method of maintaining a healthy body. So, it’s not just the hair, we ourselves are very healthy.” (Emilia)

“I see. That is why Reese has become beautiful recently. Will you teach me a lot?” (Lifell)

Princess Lifell’s rash actions didn’t stop even after Senia called her repeatedly so many times. Reese was amazed by that scene, but since she was not finished with the introductions, she forcibly stopped her.

“Ane-sama, please stop immediately. Apart from her, this child is Reus. He is Emilia’s younger brother.” (Reese)

“Nice to meet you. My name is Reus, I am a friend that she treats as an younger brother.” (Reus)

“Yeah… You look tougher than what I have heard. If you are treated as Reese’s younger brother, I will also treat you as my younger brother. So, you don’t have to use honorific with me. Won’t you talk like usual?” (Lifell)

“Hime-sama! Using honorifics is a commoner’s natural obligation!” (Melt)

“Melt, if I say it’s alright, it is alright. It’s fine to be professional with your duty, but predicting your master’s subtleties is also part of your duty, you know.” (Lifell)

“Kuh… Understood.” (Melt)

Melt withdrew unwillingly. Being too faithful to your duty is also troublesome huh. I feel that his compatibility with Lifell-hime is bad since a while ago. Too bad I don’t sympathize with him at all, even though he didn’t show the cold eyes he had for beastkin to me.

“Well, Lifell-ane… will that be alright, I wonder? I’m Reus, nice to meet you.” (Reus)

“You’re still stiff but… oh well, it’s fine. Nice to meet you, Reus. Since I heard you protected Reese from terrible killers, I think I want to express my gratitude at least once.” (Lifell)

“I didn’t do it to receive gratitude. After all, even though I did that, I couldn’t protect Nee-chan and Reese-ane until the end.” (Reus)

“However, isn’t Reese here because you were there? Don’t misunderstand my gratitude, because it’s just proper courtesy.” (Lifell)

“Is that so? Then, I’ll accept it.” (Reus)

“What a good child.” (Lifell)

Reus’ head was patted gently, Reus scratched his cheeks shyly. That’s good, Reus. Being patted by the princess of the country is a rare thing.

“Well then, this child is…” (Lifell)

“Yes, Ane-sama. He is my Shishou, he has taught me various things until now. He is Sirius-san.” (Reese)

“Nice to meet you, Lifell-hime.” (Sirius)

“So… Sirius-san is the one that Reese admired. I heard that you are younger, but may I hear your age?” (Lifell)

She asked for my age while looking at me from head to toe. If I’m not mistaken, I hear that she is 17 years old, but I don’t think that relates to her insight. She is to be said a genius, so I’ll be in trouble if she looks carefully.

“I’ll be eleven years old this year. Still, is it weird for me to be guiding Reese?” (Sirius)

“Well. That is because she became remarkably stronger after she met you. She was amazing from the beginning, but now it’s not a joke anymore to say that Reese’s healing magic is the best in the country. Besides, I don’t think the air around you is like a child’s. Right… it’s certainly an air like Otou-sama’s.” (Lifell)

To grasp my personality after meeting me for the first time, just like the headmaster… she is not an ordinary person after all. As one would expect, she is said to be the candidate for the next Queen.

“A child like me similar to the King? You can’t be serious.” (Sirius)

“Yeah, it’s just a matter of a different situation. The most important point is that thanks to you, Reese became really strong. I am grateful, not as Lifell – the princess, but as Reese’s sister.” (Lifell)

“I certainly accept that. However, Reese growth is a result of her effort. I just helped a little. Besides, that is only natural of me to do.” (Sirius)

“Are you really 11 years old? I guess I understand Reese’s desire to embrace your big back.” (Lifell)

“Ane-sama!” (Reese)

“Aah I’m sorry. Was that a secret? By the way, I was worried about Reese since she wasn’t here by my side after I let her enroll in school. I’m really relieved that you guys became friends in such circumstances.” (Lifell)

“I’m sorry to ask this, but why is Reese’s existence being concealed?” (Sirius)

She is the only daughter of the king of this entire country, in short her name is Princess Lifell. However, even Princess Lifell herself also recognizes her as a princess. And yet, why are they hiding the fact?

It may affect the course of events for the princesses of the country. But since I’m more or less involved into their problems anyways, I think I should try understanding them a bit.

“Do not get carried away, commoner! I’ll cut you down, if you speak any further!” (Melt)

“…” (Sirius)

It’s natural for Melt to restraint from the back since this pertains to the secrecy of the royal family. Plus, I can also felt the blood thirst coming from Senia who stood next to Princess Lifell. Reus protected my back, Emilia stepped forward, while being cautious, and Reese alone was awkwardly flustered.

The feeling like a pin and stick thread continued for a while until Princess Lifell broke the tension.

“Senia, Melt. Refrain yourselves.” (Lifell)

“Understood.” (Senia)

“But!” (Melt)

“These children are the ones that Reese has put her trust in. Anyhow, I probably need to talk and I think they have the right to know.” (Lifell)

“Ane-sama… Alright. I don’t want to keep this secret from my friends anymore.” (Reese)

“Are you sure? Well, the reason we are keeping it a secret is strange, isn’t it? So, it’s fine to explain if they promise not to tell others.” (Lifell)

“I promise I won’t tell others. I just want to know more about Reese.” (Sirius)

Honestly, I don't want any connection with royal family, but it's different when it comes to Reese's family. After graduation, we want her to follow us but it's will be difficult, if the royal family is involved.

At least if we are gone, she can live safely and I don't have to think about her training menu. No matter how I look at her, she doesn't have the characteristics of a person that has a relationship with the royal family, maybe I should teach her a bit of offensive and intimidation magic.

"The reason Reese is not officially announced is because she is an illegitimate child, but the main problem is the interference from many parties. When the number of daughters increase, by all means, there will be many people, who would want to get into the royal family even by taking this child as a wife. I can send those guys away, but Reese will be deceived no matter how you look at it. Well she was a commoner just a few years back, so perhaps it can't be helped for her to be a kind and gentle child." (Lifell)

"I feel like I understand that. So that she won't be seen as a 'delicious meal' by others, huh?" (Sirius)

"Ane-sama, the truth is… Emilia will feel bad if you say it so directly." (Reese)

Even though Reese finally had her sister meet her friends, her spirit was slowly getting shaken. She is being naive as usual, but that is one of her charms.

"That is why I told Tou-san to conceal the fact. So that she herself can choose what she want to be when she grows up. As whether she wants to live as the second daughter of the royal family, find a new way to live or to live as commoner… it is all up to her." (Lifell)

"Aniki, aniki. If we can persuade Reese-ane, won't we be able to travel together?" (Reus)

"Maybe."

Because she has such a reliable older sister here. Even if we invite her to come together, it can't be decided lightly.

There is one more thing, should I inquire about that important matter?

“Does she have the right to success the throne?” (Sirius)

“You’re being assertive, Sirius-kun. She does more or less yes, but at the lowest position since there are our brothers and me. Unless, everyone in the royal family dies, because the castle got hit by a big magic, it’s impossible.” (Lifell)

“Lifell-sama, please stop that. It’s imprudent to say such thing.” (Senia)

“Do you understand bastard! If Faeris-sama is taken as a wife by force, that person will rise in the royal family!” (Melt)

Melt started to blame while pointing at me. He mentions the downside of the issue, but since nobody knows, it can’t be helped no matter how you look on this situation.

“It seems you have a comment, what is it?” (Lifell)

“Setting aside Reese, I am entirely uninterested in the affairs of the royal family. Rather, I was relieved when you said that she is unlikely to succeed the throne.” (Sirius)

Reese got flustered and her face reddened, when she heard my answer. Depending on who was listening, it might be interpreted like it’s alright to marry Reese.

Reese doesn’t seem to be interested in the royal family, and I think her natural disposition right now is the best.

“Fufu… to understand the matters about Reese above all, Is there anything else?” (Lifell)

“No, nothing in particular.” (Sirius)

“Right. Well then, should we talk a little bit more? We want to know what Reese sees in you guys.” (Lifell)

“My pleasure… that’s what I want to say, but first of all, I would like to be done with Reese’s business.” (Sirius)

“Business? What kind of business, Reese.” (Lifell)

“That’s right, Ane-sama! It’s about your illness!” (Reese)

She seemed to have forgotten, since she was in agony when her secret was exposed. The side of Reese being embarrassed is adorable.

Her expression was surely funny, but her words were clear and serious. However, I think I should work on getting their trust rather than examining Princess Lifell in hurry, but to think the person herself, who took me here, forgot about the main business.

“It’s alright Reese. It’s true that my body feels sluggish, but as arranged the new medicine will arrive by tomorrow. I’ll surely be cured if I take that medicine.” (Lifell)

“There is no such guarantee. Didn’t you say that my healing magic is almost the best in the country? Why would you say such a thing even though there is no clear indication that you’re being cured by my magic?” (Reese)

“Maybe the sickness is incompatible with magic power. In addition, it’s alright even if you’re not worried, you know? That is because I plan to call a doctor from a distant place if the medicine is not working.” (Lifell)

“Therefore… why don’t we have Sirius-san to examine you?” (Reese)

“Sirius-kun?” (Lifell)

“Yes. Sirius-san knows the human body very well and my healing magic became good because I was taught by Sirius-san about it’s structure. That’s why I thought of bringing him to figure out the cause of Ane-sama’s illness.” (Reese)

“So… is he going to touch me?” (Lifell)

“That’s right. Sirius-san, will you please do it?” (Reese)

“Please wait.” (Sirius)

Princess Lifell's expression changed the moment when Reese squeezed out herself in front of me.

It's not the gentle face of older sister, but instead right now she is the king's daughter, Lifell Bardfeld who is looking here with sharp glare.

"Reese, despite of being my younger sister, don't you understand my standpoint? No matter how hurried you are, I am not going to allow such selfish behavior." (Lifell)

"That is… but I'm worried about Ane-sama!" (Reese)

"Yes, I understand you are in pain because your gentleness. But, I'm the princess of the country. This is something that I can't let go no matter if it's request from younger sister. And, Sirius-kun…" (Lifell)

"What is it?" (Sirius)

"The thing about touching me, are you going to touch me, the princess of the country before her wedding? I wonder if you have such resolution." (Lifell)

I see no problem, since Reus was patted by Princess Lifell. The problem seems to be touching without permission but… it's irrelevant to me.

"It doesn't matter. I'm asked by Reese, so I want to help you out only because you're her older sister. Instead, there is a condition for this treatment." (Sirius)

"Hee… there is condition after I declared that touching is not permitted. So, shall I hear it?" (Lifell)

"I'm going to use special magic that I don't want to be known by others. I want you to promise not to tell others." (Sirius)

"You bastard! You dare to show such attitude towards the Princess! Give me a break!" (Melt)

“Silence, Melt. I’m the one talking with him. And… what would happen if I can’t protect the secret?” (Lifell)

“If you cannot follow my condition, I’m going to take Reese away from Elysion.” (Sirius)

“Ehh!?” (Reese)

A perfect elopement with a guy. The siblings will surely come with me, so if my disciples are with me, I have no reason to be bound here. I can take Reese away freely and escape.

Reese’ face paled and that sister of hers was looking here with bloodlust.

“… Do you think I will permit that? I’m going to send pursuers to immediately catch you.” (Lifell)

“If that’s the case, should I cross over to the Adlode continent? As one would expect, interference will be difficult in another continent even for Elysion. Since we have no difficulties to camp outside, we can build a house deep in mountains in the other continent and wait for things to calm down.” (Sirius)

“Do you think you can do it?” (Lifell)

“It’s doable. Because I have the capability to do it.” (Sirius)

I ran from the house where I was born. Furthermore I can carry them alone in sky like when I went to Lior’s house, end of story. I won’t be caught by a net at the harbors, since I’m not going to use a ship. I have enough confidence having trained for it.

The person herself was troubled and had a red face, but I let it go, since she didn’t seem to be looking here.

“Why do you want to take Reese along?” (Lifell)

“That is a matter of her being my disciple. I think she will get stronger, when she is together with us rather than receiving your protection.” (Sirius)

“Is that so… you pass!” (Lifell)

Princess Lifell reverted to her normal herself and showed a refreshing expression. She was in high spirit, while looking at Senia.

“Did you hear that, Senia? Far from averting his eyes from my gaze, he declared that he will run away with her!” (Lifell)

“Yes, it is. It’s like a prince from the tales.” (Senia)

“That’s great. I might have fallen in love with you if you were a bit older. At least Reese doesn’t mind, right?” (Lifell)

“Eh!? Err… Ane-sama, weren’t you angry?” (Reese)

“Reese, your sister wasn’t angry. We were only being tested.” (Sirius)

This has become a test from her older sister, since she is giving up her important sister to a man. Nevertheless, I can understand about the headmaster, but is it common sense in this world to test people out by bloodlust? It’s like saying; don’t even talk about it, if you don’t have the courage.

She was laughing with Senia, while looking at the flushed Reese. Then, the satisfied Princess Lifell extended her hand to me.

“But, I would drive you out if you really touch me without permission. Well then, should I give you permission to touch me even if though you passed? Is my hand good enough? Aah, my chest is absolutely no good even if you are a child.” (Lifell)

“…There’s no problem even with only your hand.” (Sirius)

Well, it’s too bad that Princess Lifell’s chest is almost flat… No, let’s stop thinking about it. She might figure out what I am thinking, since she has good intuition.

It feels good to hold Princess Lifell's smooth hand, but I can feel her having a high temperature, because of her poor physical condition. I invoked [Scan] through Princess Lifell's hand to search for any anomaly.

"… Nothing is happening so I wonder what on earth you are doing." (Lifell)

"Sirius-sama is checking for anomalies in your body by using his original magic. Since Reus and I have already received it so many times, it gives off almost no feeling." (Emilia)

"Magic to check for anomalies in someone's body… right? This is certainly can't be told to others." (Lifell)

"Ane-sama, why do you say that? I think if possible, this can save lots of people." (Reese)

"It is certainly can help people, but there will be various people aiming at him in order to analyze this magic. Therefore, I'm going to protect the secret from spreading. Senia, Melt, I forbid you from telling others about how the magic, you just heard about, works. I give this as an absolute order as the princess." (Lifell)

"Understood." (Senia)

"…Yes!" (Melt)

Senia lowered her head elegantly, while Melt lowered his head with a sour facial expression.

This guy has not separated his hand from his sword, ever since I held Princess Lifell's hand. It seemed he was going to attack at anytime soon, but I would have been attacked already if Reus and Senia weren't there.

As for Reese's older sister, the result of the thorough [Scan]… was confirmed.

It's not a problem like an illness. To make it simple, the main cause is physical.

I released her hand and then I announced the result with a voice that can be heard by everyone.

“Lifell-hime, there is a foreign substance in your body.” (Sirius)

Chapter 40

The Kidnapped Princess

“There is a foreign substance inside me? However, I don’t feel anything else other than being sluggish.” (Lifell)

“That is because the size is unusually small and doesn’t cause discomfort. The spot is… in this area.” (Sirius)

I pointed at the middle part of Princess Lifell’s upper arm. After I used [Scan], it didn’t detect just any foreign substance – there was also foreign magical power at that spot.

“Did you suffer any injury in this spot recently?” (Sirius)

“There was that one time. I fell down from a horse a while ago, and I was wounded by a stone.” (Lifell)

Falling from a horse… what an aggressive princess. She said the wound was deep, but a scar unexpectedly couldn’t be found.

Did they recall that situation? Senia was looking at the spot where Princess Lifell’s scar should have been, while smiling bitterly.

“We were in hurry at that time. We were panicking, because Lifell-sama’s blood was spurting out, so we called a nearby magician.” (Senia)

“I got flustered when I heard about it. I don’t know how many times I need to say it, but please be careful, Ane-sama.” (Reese)

“Ah~yeah, I’m sorry. However, I was saved, because Reese’ magic removed the scar. If I, as a princess had a scar, my appearance was going to be tainted in various ways.” (Lifell)

“As one would expect of Reese. It’s already at the same level as Sirius-sama.” (Emilia)

As Emilia said, Princess Lifell’s skin was beautiful, and no one could have guessed that there was once a scar on her.

“Reese, your skill has improved, if you can heal a wound until the scar disappears. This is evidence of you utilizing what you have learned.” (Sirius)

“These sort of things… are all thanks to Sirius-san.” (Reese)

“Thanks to Reese-ane, my scar was also practically gone.” (Reus)

He didn’t express it properly, but Reus often becomes a subject for her healing magic training. As for why, Reus who had a lot of wounds due to the mock battles with me, was an obvious target. It was also an opportunity for her to become close with Reus, since she didn’t have a good opportunity before. It took her time to call Reus without honorifics and that was the reason she could do it needing only several days.

“Anyhow, there was a wound at this exact spot. Wasn’t it the day before your condition started getting bad?” (Sirius)

“You are right. Of course, the various magician and doctors, who were called to examine me, also thought that was the cause. However, everyone who checked it said that there was nothing out of the ordinary about my arm. Right now, I am thinking of a different approach, since instead of my arm, I noticed my magical power being disrupted.” (Lifell)

“From my inspection, I haven’t found anything wrong with Lifell-hime other than this arm.There is no mistake that the cause of her poor physical condition is the foreign substance.” (Sirius)

[Scan] indicated an abnormally high magical power in the foreign substance. Since the foreign substance is emitting different mana compared to Princess Lifell’s, I guess it becomes poisonous and undermines her whole body. The way healing magic works is it overwrites the foreign substance mana and gives her temporary relief. But, since the cause,

which is the foreign substance, wasn't removed, its mana leaked again and her condition worsens. She would continue suffering no matter how many times she gets cured.

Even though my explanation was thorough, Melt wasn't convinced since I still look like a child and voiced his dissent.

"Please don't be deceived Hime-sama! I haven't heard anything about a magic that can detect foreign substances in someone's body. He is clearly lying ." (Melt)

"It probably can't be helped that he assumes that you are lying, right? Sirius-kun, you have heard Melt's argument, but based do you have any evidence supporting your previous claims of a foreign substance?" (Lifell)

She seems to believe in my magic, but Melt as an imperial guard, is not in a situation to simply believe my explanation. That's why she wants me to show some evidence.

"If you want me to present evidence, I don't have it unfortunately." (Sirius)

"Did you hear that Hime-sama? He may have heard the story from Faeris-sama and he is just making up things accordingly." (Melt)

"Anyway, I have no proof other than taking the foreign substance out and showing it to you." (Sirius)

"Taking it out? What is your plan?" (Lifell?)

"By surgical operation… I will make a cut in your arm and take it out." (Sirius)

There is virtually no concept of a surgical operation in this world. Most injuries and diseases are cured by healing magic and this is also because it is unthinkable to cut people other than in battle.

There are also limitations and exceptions when using such omnipotent healing magic and her case is such an example.

In my opinion this foreign substance mixed in when the wound was closed during treatment. The common sense in this world is… to treat it with healing magic if you got hurt, and when treating someone with haste the cleanliness of surrounding area is usually ignored.

Now, she said that she fell as she was riding her horse, so it is likely that foreign substance such as stone and dirt could have slipped in the wound when she fell on the bare ground.

It's alright if the foreign substance is just stone or something, but since the magical power is high, if my guess is right…

"This commoner finally revealed his real nature! To cut Hime-sama's arm? As an Imperial Guard, I'm going to eliminate whoever brings harm to the princess!" (Melt)

"Wait a second! Sirius-kun, there must be a reason for you to say this much, right?" (Lifell)

"Of course. I felt different mana compared to Lifell-hime's from that foreign substance. The probability you will be healed with the passing of time is low and it will continue to bring harm to you if you leave it unattended." (Sirius)

"Sirius-san, what will happen to Ane-sama in this situation?" (Reese)

"Her sickness won't result in death, but she is going to suffer until the end. In fact, I'm really confident about this." (Sirius)

"Well… if I were to speak honestly, my whole body is screaming. Since I couldn't sleep at night due to that, I had to consume some sleeping powder yesterday." (Lifell)

Sleeping powder is similar to the sleeping pill of my previous world. Although she was unable to sleep without relying on sleeping powder, she still talked with us while laughing. The princess is really enduring the pain just in order not to make Reese worry.

"I recommend taking it out immediately. Nevertheless, if you still don't believe me, I will put forth some conditions." (Sirius)

"… Let's hear it." (Lifell)

"If I treat you and find nothing, you can have my head." (Sirius)

"What did you say!?" (??)

Everyone except the siblings held their breath, but I would only treat someone if I am certain. There is not even one in a million chances for this to become a situation, where I 'part' with my head.

"If that's the case, You can have my head as well." (Emilia)

"Me too." (Reus)

Even though I didn't arrange for it beforehand, the siblings came forward. I really appreciate their immediate backing but… those two are still worried about 'presenting' their necks. That's what I think…

"M-me too!" (Reese)

"Reese!? Even you?" (Lifell)

"Ane-sama, It is not to the same extent as Emilia and Reus, but I trust Sirius-san. He is the person who trained us while being considerate and having confidence in us. Therefore, I also…" (Reese)

"Reese…" (Lifell)

"Please. Please believe…in Sirius-san!" (Reese)

Reese also came forward announcing her trust in me. She asked Princess Lifell almost begging, a pure thought without even the slightest selfishness.

Princess Lifell let out a big sigh at her younger sister's sentiment.

“Haa… Look at this sight, Senia. My younger sister has grown in the time I couldn’t see her. I am somewhat lonely.” (Lifell)

“Yes, me too. Still, she has grown up substantially. This is probably the result of meeting these guys.” (Senia)

“I just want to help Ane-sama, so such thing like growing up is…” (Reese)

“That’s not it. I would have given up unwillingly if it was the you from before. I wonder if this is what happens when someone is in love.” (Lifell)

“L-love!? Y-you’re wrong! Sirius-san already has Emilia!” (Reese)

“Ara, love is something that needs to be pursued. I will not permit my younger sister to give up before the fight.” (Lifell)

It is nice that the sisters are getting excited, but there is a guy, who is being left out, glaring at me, so I want to continue with the talk soon.

“So, how about that, Lifell-hime? Can you trust me with this?” (Sirius)

“To put the lives of four people on the line, including my younger sister’s is something that even I can’t ignore. My reputation as a leader will be compromised if I refuse this, so I leave it to you.” (Lifell)

“Hime-sama!? It’s not necessary to do such dangerous action! Didn’t the magicians, who examined you, say that there was nothing wrong with your arm!?” (Melt)

“They did say that, but they didn’t say anything about my mana being disrupted if there is nothing in my arm. In the meantime, can you with certainty deny Sirius-kun? Even Reese trusts him, so as her sister, I must also trust him.” (Lifell)

“You! In addition to Faeris-sama, Hime-sama also got confused. I’ll knock some sense immediately…!?” (Melt)

The moment when Melt withdrew his sword, Senia slipped behind him and stabbed his neck with a needle. Melt collapsed on the ground, then he was pulled to the end of the room and was left alone. I thought that was depressing, but wasn't the treatment harsh for an Imperial Guard?

"The needle is coated with sleeping powder. He will most likely not wake up soon." (Senia)

"Nice, Senia. Well then, please take care of me, Sirius-kun." (Lifell)

"… that man, will he be ok?" (Sirius)

"It's alright, because this is not the first time. The Imperial Guards are excellent, their loyalty is high, but their weakness is they are too strict with outsiders." (Lifell)

"It's pity to be too loyal." (Sirius)

"Aah… I see. I'm happy that I have friend who share same opinion." (Lifell)

Princess Lifell glanced at the siblings for their understanding. After all, the siblings' loyalty is abnormally high even in the eyes of someone from the royal family.

As soon as the noisy one was gone, I could finally proceed with the treatment, since I already got permission from her.

Tools like a large bucket and a pincet were prepared on the silver tray normally used to carry meals. Next, I touched Princess Lifell's arm again to confirm the foreign substance and Senia drew closer to hand over a small handkerchief.

"Lifell-sama, here's a handkerchief." (Senia)

"Thank you, I should put in my mouth, right?" (Lifell)

"Ane-sama, what is the handkerchief for?" (Reese)

"Am I not going to be cut here? It's going to be very painful, so it's scary if I don't protect my teeth for that." (Lifell)

“It’s not necessary. From now on, I’m going to erase your sense of pain, so you won’t feel any.” (Sirius)

“What did you say… eh?” (Lifell)

Since I finished the anesthetic procedure using mana while I was explaining, she won’t feel anything on her arm for a while. I pricked several times using my finger and Princess Lifell was surprised because she couldn’t feel anything when moving her arm.

“I wonder what this is. I really can’t feel anything, when I move my arm.” (Lifell)

“Your sense of pain and touch are paralyzed by my mana. With this, you won’t feel it even if you get cut.” (Sirius)

“How far does this magic go? No, now is time for the treatment. Since I have decided, please.” (Lifell)

I said it’s better to turn her eyes away or be blindfolded, but she declared that she wanted to see it with her own eyes until the end, since it involves her. I prepared a bucket under her arm while Emilia prepared a tray, and then I went in for the operation.

To explain simply, the three steps taken are cut, take out and then heal.

Nonetheless, speaking about the human body, since blood will spurt out if I cut too much, it will be better if I do it carefully and swiftly.

I tied her upper arm with [String] to restrict the blood flow and then I cut her arm without hesitation by using a sterilized Mithril Knife. While the blood got collected into a bucket. I spread the wound and thrust the pincet into the wound. Everyone, who was watching, swallowed their saliva at the sight.

“Ane-sama, are you alright?” (Reese)

“You look unwell, you know. Nevertheless… Although the wound will be sewn, I really don’t feel anything. Will it go back to normal?” (Lifell) *(TLN: She’s talking about having a scar.)*

“It’s alright, Lifell-hime. Sirius-sama will never do such a thing.” (Emilia)

“You are so confident.” (Lifell)

“Yes. I give him my all.” (Emilia)

“Arara, this seems to be tough.” (Lifell)

Even if there was no sense of pain, she was amazing, because she didn’t flinch in this situation at all and she was even expressing her opinion.

I moved the pincet into the wound as I avoided damaging the blood vessels, and I finally grasped the foreign substance that I perceived through [Scan]. I pulled it out slowly and I ended the procedure by putting it on the tray that Emilia held.

“Reese, after this, I leave it you.” (Sirius)

“Understood.” (Reese)

The healing should be done immediately after the foreign substance was removed, but it was fine if I left the treatment to her for later. I erased the tied [String] and I, who got smeared with blood, was given a clean towel by Senia and I also wiped the foreign substance completely.

The blood was wiped from the small stone just now and it was as big as pinky finger. It became reddish because of the blood, but the the real color of the substance was light green

This green stone… as I expected after all.

“Did such thing enter Lifell-ane’s wound?” (Reese)

“Sirius-sama, what on earth is this?” (Emilia)

“This is a ‘Magic Stone’. It’s purer compared to the one I bought.” (Sirius)

The size is small, but it is a ‘Magic Stone’ with enough mana to make Princess Lifell fall sick. Mana spilled out from this ‘Magic Stone’ and it inflicted pain to Princess Lifell.

This is not a situation that always happened where such precious ‘Magic Stone’ is found when you fall from horse. I can certainly smell plot. Reese’ treatment was finished while I was thinking how should I explain this. The wound was completely gone when the blood got wiped.

“Ane-sama, the treatment is completed but… how do you feel?” (Reese)

“Well… I feel a bit sluggish, but the annoying pain is gone.” (Lifell)

Senia squeezed a towel with hot water to wipe blood and sweat off, Princess Lifell confirmed her condition and nodded in satisfaction.

She won’t recover stamina immediately, but it is ok, since the foreign substance undermining her condition was gone.

“You still can’t be careless, because you lost a considerable amount of blood, but your physical strength should be restored, if you rest for a few days. Please consume nutritious meals and take enough rest.” (Sirius)

“I have a lot of thing that I want to say, but first let me say thanks. Thank you, Sirius-kun.” (Lifell)

“You helped too Lifell-hime, thank you very much.” (Sirius)

It doesn’t feel bad to receive gratitudes from the princess of the country and her attendant. When I turned back, Emilia and Reus nodded as if saying naturally, and Reese grasped my hand with a deeply moved expression on her face.

“Sirius-san, thank you very much for helping Ane-sama. I’m really glad… that I met you.” (Reese)

“Go ahead and push him down. Now is your chance!” (Lifell)

“What are you saying, Ane-sama!? I only respect Sirius-san as Shishou!” (Reese)

“If that’s the case, why did you say his back was wide or something?” (Lifell)

“I think that it is a very reliable back… Hei, what are you trying to make me say!?” (Reese)

“Aren’t you saying that on your own?” (Lifell)

Melt woke up when the room became noisy, so it became even noisier, but there was no concern about Lifell-sama’s illness anymore. The problem with the criminal who slipped in the ‘Magic Stone’ still remained, but since that was her problem, it’s not a problem I must get myself involved in.

Well, her intuition is excellent so she will probably find the criminal immediately.

After that, we had tea with everyone and we planned to go back to the Diamond Cottage. Reese wanted to remain, but it would have been suspicious if they wanted to find the criminal. She got on the carriage unwillingly, because she was told to return to the school dormitory. She was pouting, since a while ago as if in bad mood, but she calmed down after talking with Emilia and she is laughing now.

“Aniki, what about today’s dinner?” (Reus)

“Well… Reese, can we go to Galgan company by using this carriage?” (Sirius)

“No problem. Are we going to return to the Diamond Cottage?” (Reese)

“If we return to school using a horse carriage of the royal family, there will be an uproar, I think? We will forget about feeling out of place if the Galgan company is having a sale, and then we will return home by walking.” (Sirius)

It might be meaningless since we were picked up by this carriage, but it is an efficient cover up if we go back by walking. Besides, I also have something to buy from the Galgan company.

“I want to buy meat later. I made Roast Beef out of delicious meat the other day, doesn’t Reese want to eat that?” (Sirius)

“That’s right. That meat was very delicious, so it is too bad Reese didn’t eat it.” (Emilia)

“Waah… is it good?” (Reese)

“Since it is so good, I have no problem to eat it no matter how many times.” (Reus)

“Should we make stew? Let’s put in lot of vegetables and cook them together.” (Sirius)

“”””Yes, please!””” (Emilia/Reus/Reese)

After that, Zack was surprised when we got off the carriage at the Galgan company. And then, we went back to the Diamond Cottage and had dinner.

The meal at her sister’s place was delicious, but the meal here was the best since Reese was so happy when eating it. I think she is more suited to be a commoner than royalty after all.

There were various problems, but Princess Lifell was saved, and our lives returned to normal, not affected by the dark side of royal matters.

… And that’s what I thought but the talk wasn’t over yet.

Two days later, I came to Princess Lifell’s place again.

This time, Princess Lifell called me directly, not through Reese. Princess Lifell laughed and smiled, having a meeting with me while I sat on the sofa. By the way, I had to refuse Emilia and Reus coming to the meeting. They were left to unhappily train by themselves in the Diamond Cottage this time.

“Welcome, Sirius-kun. I’m sorry to call you.” (Lifell)

“No problem., you look well after all.” (Sirius)

Unlike the time when I treated her, she looked really spirited. Her pale face regained reddish tinge, she wore an indoor dress and her hair tied properly. No matter how you look, she is elegant princess.

“Reese, I’m sorry but can you leave here for a bit? It’s alright even without making such a face. I’m not going to harm Sirius-kun in any way.” (Lifell)

“Is it true? It’s suspicious to call only for Sirius-san, you know.” (Reese)

“We are about to have a slightly difficult talk, and I don’t want to involve you. Come on, go and have cake together with Senia and Melt.” (Lifell)

“You treat me like I’m a child! Already… I’ll leave since Ane-sama said so much, but Sirius-san, please don’t just agree if she says weird things.” (Reese)

“It’s alright, Reese-sama. Come now, I made the cake that I was taught by Emilia previously, please sample it.” (Senia)

“… It can’t be helped then.” (Reese)

“It is splendid to be honest. Hey Melt, you come too.” (Senia)

“I got it” (Melt)

As soon as Reese, who gulped her saliva, her attendant and the Imperial Guard disappeared, there were only two people left in the room, the princess and I.

Hmm, there was something funny with Melt’s reaction when I think about it. Although I was about to be left alone with Princess Lifell in the room, he went together with Reese without saying anything. His gaze was sharp as ever but the hostility was completely gone.

“Although Melt usually looks at us as with hostility, he didn’t say anything huh.” (Sirius)

“I’m sorry about what happened with Melt on the other day. But, I don’t want you to judge him too harshly. He was anxious the whole time, thinking that my physical condition got worse because of some unknown cause even when various magicians and doctors came to

treat me. That's why his speech became harsh, but now that I'm cured, it looks like he can carry out his duty well once again. He wouldn't say anything, but he recognizes what you did for me." (Lifell)

Is his loyalty high only because of how faithful he is with his duties? Besides, Melt is at the same age as the princess, and I have a slight feeling that she is not looking at him as only a subordinate. Before he became an Imperial Guard, were they acquaintances… or childhood friends, is it that kind of feeling? I want to hear about it if I am to become her friend someday.

But, doesn't this leave here vulnerable to assassination? No, I don't think he has such intentions. Thanks to my previous life I can't help but think about such morbid matters.

Anyhow, I'm probably just getting worried about trivial things. Moving on , Princess Lifell started to look at me with a slightly more serious face.

"There are several things that I want to tell you. First of all, I know the criminal who planted the 'Magic Stone' into my wound." (Lifell)

She talked about the truth behind the incident.

She told me that the one that poisoned her with the 'Magic Stone' was the male magician who treated her when she fell down from the horse. He was the personal magician of Prince Deilaff who is third in line to succeed the throne.

Nevertheless, the magician didn't know the effect when he used the 'Magic Stone'. As for his respective superior, he handed the stone to the magician and said that it would accelerate the treatment. And since the other party was a princess, he used the stone without hesitation.

The princess herself didn't know much about medicine so she didn't suspect a thing – she was under the impression that the stone was a good thing.

And, the one that handed him the 'Magic Stone' was… the noble who served under Deilaff. The characteristic of embedded 'Magic Stone' is it emits precious/valuable mana, so the

price of Magic Stone becomes expensive. If they trace the movement of money (to buy) the stone, it ended up to that guy.

“The magician, who gave me the ‘Magic Stone’, was nowhere to be found, when I looked for him, turned out he was disposed by the hand of the noble. I’m afraid that it happened even before my physical condition turned bad. In short, the true criminal is that noble and it seems he was hoping for Dilaff-niisan to succeed the throne.” (Lifell)

“Then, why are you first in the line for succession? Shouldn’t your older siblings have more right than you to succeed the throne?” (Sirius)

“The succession right is by principle one where a female stands at the top.It is something that isn’t percieved well by the public and as a result it’s impossible for a queen to stay at the top of Elysion. Incidentally, since it would be interesting to see the noble tremble when I show him the evidence I sent people to search his house secretly, there were plentiful of evidence found ” (Lifell)

She collected the evidence and reported it to the king. The noble would be arrested not before long. There is no mistake that decision has been made to drive him out of Elysion.

She finished the thorough report with a satisfied look on her face, but I was still unusually troubled. To begin with…

“… For what reason would you report this to me? Maybe I didn’t want to know it, maybe I didn’t want to be concerned with it.” (Sirius)

“Thanks to you I grasped the real situation, so you have the right to know. However, that is not the reason for calling you.” (Lifell)

I understood that she shared her secret just to let out steam. And I understood her goal, I let her finish though . She beckoned me and declared.

“Sirius-kun The reason I called you is to recruit you. Will you join my cause after you graduate?” (Lifell)

Is she trying recruit me? I saw through the 'Magic Stone' with my original magic that couldn't be detected by any other person and she noticed Reese's ability improved in front of her eyes. Judging by her personality, she thought I would be coming to serve her someday, but she has decided to recruit me even after meeting me only once. Was it because I have great ability or because I have no fear?

"I can say whatever I want but won't it be doubted, because I'm just a child? Is it be alright to recruit a commoner?" (Sirius)

"Your ability is surely superior and not only compared to that of a child. But I understand when looking at Reese and your two servants, when I look at your figure, I understand that you are gentle and not an evil person." (Lifell)

"… I'm only like that with my disciples. I have no mercy for my enemies." (Sirius)

"I want a talented person, such as yourself. Being gentle won't help me protect the things I want to protect, so having power is necessary. For this reason, I want you to join my camp, for you understand that." (Lifell)

Princess Lifell doesn't see me as a child. She can say it especially, because I alone am very capable. I don't dislike her, but I have no intention serving the royal family. I have been wanting to learn various things by traveling around the world, not by staying in the royal palace.

"This is an unusually privileged talk for a commoner like me, but I intend to go for trip when I graduate. Besides, it's because Emilia and Reus will be there too." (Sirius)

"Of course you'll be with Emilia and Reus. If you like, it's fine if you bring Reese too." (Lifell)

"Please don't pass your younger sister like some kind of freebies." (Sirius)

"As for being being a commoner, I think it's alright. That girl doesn't seem dissatisfied, so I'm sure she will be happy, if she is with Sirius-kun." (Lifell)

“That is also interesting but… I’m sorry, I have to decline.” (Sirius)

Princess Lifell sighed as if giving up at my obstinate attitude. To bring out the matter about her younger sister is something unexpected, but at least I want to confirm something from her.

“Haa… it’s wasteful to let it go despite finding a capable person like you. I’ll give up this time, but will you think about it again after you travel around the world?” (Lifell)

“Even I don’t know how many years that would take?” (Sirius)

“It’s all good. I will become Queen for this country eventually and I intend to make Elysion grow bigger. If I were to employ you in the long term, it’s going to be splendid.” (Lifell)

Far from giving up, she is conversely burning with fighting spirit. My association with her was short, but she has the disposition to both stand at the top and to flexibly accept good and bad things. According to what she said, it seems Elysion is going to be developed more and more.

In my previous life, I had to work behind-the-scenes numerous times. I was a subordinate of the organization before, so it doesn’t feel that unpleasant to be called that by someone else. Depending on what happens in the future, it might be fine to be attached under her.

However, that is long ways off in the future. Right now,let’s just be on good terms with Reese’s older sister. I took out the ‘for-preservation-use’ wooden box that I held.

“Since I was in hurry last time, I came empty handed, but this time, I brought something.” (Sirius)

“I wonder what is that. I hope it’s something wonderful.” (Lifell)

“After two days your stomach is already recovering, so I baked a cake.” (Sirius)

There was an entire shortcake, that was more or less sweet, in the box that had been drawn with cooling magic formation that I learned in school. Since Reese brought it several times in the past, this was not Princess Lifell's first time to eat it, but her eyes glittered as soon as she confirmed the appearance of the cake.

"I've been dreaming… to see a cake as big as this." (Lifell)

"Let's slice it for Senia and Melt. "You have said that you like shortcake, but how about cheesecake?" (Sirius)

"Cheesecake? I haven't eaten that yet." (Lifell)

"Eh, Reese should have brought it back once or twice but…could it be that she ate it on the way back home?" (Sirius)

Her gluttonny is unmatched sometimes. It is most likely that her favorite cake is the cheesecake. Strange mana began overflowing from Princess Lifell just from knowing about it.

"Right… it seems necessary to talk with that child." (Lifell)

Grudges over food are scary. And even more so in regards to women and sweet food apparently. I don't intend to follow up since that was Reese's mistake.

While advancing towards the fall of Reese… someone suddenly came in.

"Lifell-sama! There's trouble!" (Senia)

While I was cutting the cake, Senia barged in. I don't think it's good idea for a servant not to knock and enter her master's private room without permission unless it is an urgent business. The evidence was I didn't see Senia's face with the speed she entered.

The expression of being charmed looking at the cake until just now was gone and Princess Lifell changed to a serious expression, while reprimanding Senia.

"Senia, it's rude not to knock. No… is it something serious?" (Lifell)

“I’m sorry. The truth is…” (Senia)

Senia put her mouth closed to Princess Lifell’s ear after apologizing and conveyed the contents. As they treated me like an outsider, I resumed cutting the cake but… I strengthen my hearing ability unconsciously and strained my ears. After I heard certain something, I instantly invoked [Search].

“What did you say!” (Lifell)

“It’s the truth. It is certain that he is a messenger with the King’s symbol.” (Senia)

Princess Lifell was also surprised enough to yell, but there was no mistake with what I heard after I checked the result of my [Search]. Princess Lifell was thinking with unpleasant face. While knowing this, she softened her expression when she became aware of me again.

“I’m sorry, Sirius-kun. Although you just came, is it alright if we end it here because something urgent came up?” (Lifell)

“Is it because Reese got kidnapped?” (Sirius)

There was already no more reaction from her in this mansion. Princess Lifell was shocked at my retort and then, she immediately became serious and looked at me.

“This is a talk related to the royal family. It’s not nice of you to eavesdrop.” (Lifell)

“I understood about her being kidnapped, but was the one who kidnapped her your Onii-san or the king?” (Sirius)

The word ‘King’ that I uttered as the one who kidnapped her was because when I follow her response through [Search], it is moving towards the castle. Princess Lifell didn’t say anything. It seems that I was not mistaken that this is related to the royal family.

“You can no longer go back if you dig deeper, you know? Despite being the first in line to succeed the throne, there is a limit to how far I can protect someone.” (Lifell)

“It doesn’t matter. I have the right to know, since she is my disciple.” (Sirius)

“Would that probably be related to your word as a commoner after all? Are you going to antagonize the royal family?” (Lifell)

“If necessary, yes. Unless It is in line with Reese’s feelings, I intend to move and to make enemies with anyone.” (Sirius)

“Is that… because you love that child?” (Lifell)

“Maybe it’s a bit different. As a Shishou and as a man, I want to protect anyone that I think important to me. If I can’t do that, I will think myself as garbage.” (Sirius)

Thanks to the experiences from my previous life, I gained so much strength by training efficiently ever since I got here. Therefore, because I believe in upholding such ideals, I intend to accomplish whatever things I have decided.

It is slightly unfair way of speaking, but Princess Lifell’s expression ‘crumbled’ and she smiled wryly.

“I wanted to say that it is love. But, It is enough that I understand that Reese is important to you.” (Lifell)

“Same goes to Hime-sama, right?” (Sirius)

“Of course. I was in a family with only men and finally a younger sister appeared, you know? On top of that, she is cute and honest, so I thought of putting her close to me by making her as my personal physician, when I become a Queen. Well, that was the story before meeting you.” (Lifell)

This princess of the country put her tongue out while joking a little. This person’s true nature appears when it comes to Reese.

“Therefore Sirius-kun, although I may not able to assist you, I can only explain the situation.” (Lifell)

"… Thank you very much. Please tell me even a little." (Sirius)

"Lifell-sama, would that be alright?" (Senia)

"No problem. This guy is not going to back down even if I keep quiet and don't say anything, and if I was in the same position, I might have grabbed some collars to get information." (Lifell)

"I agree. I would also probably fight for Reese-sama." (Senia)

"Right? Well then Sirius-kun, the one who kidnapped Reese this time is my Otou-sama… the Elysion King, Cardeas. If I say honestly, I wonder is it alright to say that she was summoned by royal command since the royal seal was presented." (Lifell)

"Her life doesn't seems to be in danger, if it's the King, but why was Reese kidnapped? And, what does she want us to do?" (Senia)

What does she want, huh? For me, that's the most important part. I don't intend to intervene if from the bottom of her heart, she wants it and it is for her own happiness. But judging from Princess Lifell's expression, that is improbable.

"It's impossible to know what she wants. After all, the reason she was taken away…" (Lifell)

She probably doesn't want to say much. While Princess Lifell was at her wit's end, she pause for a bit and after making her mind, she continued.

"…is to marry a noble." (Sirius)

"What is marriage, Aniki!?" (Reus)

I returned to the Diamond Cottage after hearing the details and told the siblings about Reese's situation.

Those two were surprised when they heard about the talk of marriage, but Reus got so angry that he started slamming the desk, because he couldn't hold it. Emilia's expression was serious too, but she calmed Reus down.

“Please calm down, Reus. Sirius-sama hasn’t finished talking.” (Emilia)

“Uuu… I’m sorry Aniki.” (Reus)

“I don’t mind, because I also understand how you are feeling. From what I heard, she was called by the King, because she is going to get married to a noble. It seems she is in the castle right now. That means under house arrest.” (Sirius)

When I last checked, she was in a room at the upper floor of the castle. There can’t be a prison in such a place and I think it’s alright since her safety is secured.

As I tried to investigate Reese’s location one more time, Emilia raised her hand and asked question.

“Sirius-sama, why is Reese forced into a marriage? Even if it is the royal family, I think she is too young for marriage.” (Emilia)

Though they called it a marriage, it is more accurate to say it is a premarital ceremony. It is mutual agreement between fiance or future prospect. The age doesn’t matter since it is like holding a ceremony to gather relatives.” (Sirius)

I consider premarital ceremony as almost similar to marriage ceremony, because it is considerably official. If it is performed, the marriage is decided and the surroundings will acknowledge it. Comparing it to my previous life, it’s like sealing a marriage registration. So, there will be a marriage ceremony once again when you got older? Although this was the common sense in my previous life, I still think this is a difficult talk.

“And it seems the reason Reese was chosen was to be Princess Lifell’s replacement.” (Sirius)

The partner is a prominent noble in Elysion and the King also recognizes their excellence. I assume that the pledge originated from the royal family in order to further strengthen the union between both sides. Originally, Princess Lifell seemed to be the partner for that ceremony, but the arrangement didn’t proceed, because she got sick. However, the fact she got sick was concealed and Reese was brought to replace her by the decree of the King.

Although she got persuaded until that extent, it is still a matter of Reese bearing the full brunt! … And, Princess Lifell is ready to go out while blurring with anger. Now is about the time for her to embark to the castle and to inquire the King.

“Since I’m absolutely going to prevent this, please wait for Reese’s return, Sirius-kun.” (LIfell) *(TLN: This was the talk during meeting with Princess Lifell)*

She said various things, but it seems she doesn’t want to get me involved, because this is a problem related to the royal family. Since she wanted to find out Reese’s true intentions, she asked me to endure and wait… so I backed down because she even lowered her head.

When I was more or less finished explaining, the siblings made a face showing that they couldn’t understand it, but they untied their clenched fists and somewhat calmed down.

“I think it will be alright if Lifell-sama says it personally but…” (Sirius)

“.. What if it doesn’t get stopped, Aniki?” (Reus)

I also worry about the same thing as the siblings.

In my opinion, this ceremony is suspicious in many ways. The ceremony will be the urgent talk at tomorrow’s evening and the matter about Reese being illegitimate child will be concealed until the ceremony. Since It feels like something big is planned, I think the probability of the princess stopping the ceremony is low.

But… furthermore, this is about Reese. She was directly called by the king and it looks like she is going to be the substitute for her sister. She has no choice, but to accept the King’s order, since she was told that her elder sister will act as her replacement if she refused it.

“… Preparation is necessary.” (Sirius)

I’m not going to save Reese, I just want to know her real intentions.

Because I’m ready tonight, I’m going to infiltrate the castle and ask her even though it’s difficult. In the first place, she become obstinate before the appointed day and there is

enough probability that she is hiding her true intention. Therefore, to perform this infiltration when her mind is really fragile is suboptimal but… there is no other way.

If she refused the ceremony, at that time…

“Aniki… Well then!” (Reus)

“As expected of Sirius-sama!” (Emilia)

“Aah, I will infiltrate when the ceremony is performed. Tentatively, I will ask you. Are you ready to pick a fight with royalty?” (Sirius)

“I will do it no matter how many times! Even if the opponent is the King, it is because I am Reese’s companion.” (Emilia)

“Reese-ane is the best when she is next to Aniki.” (Reus)

These are some really powerful expressions. I nod in satisfaction and head outside when the veil of darkness has descended. My destination is the Galgan company. It won’t be good if I don’t prepare various things for tomorrow.

“Should I… act violently tomorrow?” (Sirius)

While en route to the destination, I remember the siblings nodded with big smiles, when I said these words.

Chapter 41

My Prince

— Reese —

“Kaa-sama, let me hear the story of Dragon’s Ouji-sama.” (Reese)

“Reese really likes this story. Once upon a time, there was a very beautiful princess and a prince who was chosen by a legendary sword, in certain place,” (??)

When I was a child… that was my favorite story from mother.

The title is ‘Dragon’s Prince’ and it is a common story to read to children.

In response to the certain kingdom’s princess who had received a curse from a bad dragon, a prince traveled to find a legendary sword to defeat the dragon.

The prince continued the harsh travel painfully; he was able to defeat the dragon at last.

But when the dragon was defeated and the curse was removed, the neighboring country’s evil prince was going to marry the princess by force.

A wedding ceremony was held while the princess grieved. In the meantime, the prince, who got on the dragon’s back, barged into the wedding ceremony.

The dragon reformed itself after being defeated by the prince and it became the Prince’s ally.

While the people at the venue were frightened by the dragon, the prince rescued the princess from the evil prince.

And then, those two lived happily ever after in distant land… that is the content of the story.

Its content is for children but I still love it, even today.

Every time I hear the story, I imagine a prince appearing on the back of a dragon… because I've been dreaming about it all the time.

Even when I have grown up to an age where I can understand that the story is merely a tale, I…

When I was born, I had no father already. Mother said he went to faraway place, but I thought on my own that he already died and gave it up.

But for me, it's enough if mother is there.

I was raised by my mother and a former female adventurer. I have been showered with generous love from such a mother, so I wasn't lonely even if I didn't have a father.

And then, mother died when I was eight years old.

I spent every day grieving, and when I finally calmed down… a man walked up to me.

He handed me a letter.

The sender was called Cardeas and he is my father, the King. The letter was sent before my mother died and the content was he wanted to keep custody of me. We had little money. I think mother sent the letter with the intention of giving up her custody and she decided to send me to father's place.

I was lead by that man and came to Elysion. And then, I was guided to the castle and I met my father for the first time.

But father's eyes were cold. He continued talking about my situation uninterestedly, things about me being an illegitimate child with no equal right to succeed the throne, or not to stand out when staying in the castle. He continued looking at me with zero interest as if looking at stones everywhere.

I heard from my hometown's friend that a father is known as someone trustworthy but… the illusions of reliable father shattered in that instant.

It seemed I was merely looked as a bother by the surrounding people that I didn't know.

It was already unpleasant. Even if I'm poor, I couldn't help wanting to return to my hometown. Far from being a noble, I became a royal. What on earth would happen to me after this? I was beaten with despair when I was guided to my room, and then a woman entered knocking at the same time.

"So, you are Faeris. My name is Lifell, your Onee-chan." (Lifell)

It was a meeting between me and elder sister.

She started talking to me with friendly smile, and when I realized it, I told everything like my anxiety and feelings to my sister. I met the first person that I could rely on after coming here, I was tightly hugged, warmly embraced, and I was crying loudly.

We didn't take several hours to become friends. Then, elder sister called two people who were waiting outside the door.

"Nice to meet you, Faeris-sama. My name is Senia, I am a special attendant for Lifell-sama. Please do not hesitate to call me Senia." (Senia)

"I am Melt, the exclusive Imperial Guard for the Princess." (Melt)

Senia is very gentle rabbitkin and Melt is very hard to be approached but he'll continue protecting elder sister. I got used to living in the castle while being protected by those two and elder sister.

However, I'm still a commoner after all. I continued to struggle with table manners and courtesy of the royal family. And I continued troubling elder sister and Senia. Although elder sister and Senia fully support me, my heart gradually wears down. Elder sister, who can't look at me like that, decided.

I am blessed with magic and I have high aptitude for water magic. So, elder sister suggested entering the school in the country. The school is not like the castle because there are a lot of nobles where I can learn etiquette and I can make friends since there are also commoners… afterwards, elder sister personally talked to father and she got me permission to enter the school with condition of hiding my social standing.

I told elder sister the first time I can see spirits but since she decided not to hear, she gently warned me to conceal the fact.

"I don't care about spirits. You are my younger sister. Thank you for telling me this." (Lifell)

Being deeply moved by those words and being embraced were good memories.

"Learn various things at school. When you have friends, although it's probably impossible, introduce them sometime." (Lifell)

The reason I decided to enter the school was because elder sister pushed for it.

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After the conclusion of the school's entrance exam, I went into my room while wondering what kind of person my roommate was but there was no one in the room. And then, after sometime had lapsed, when I was thinking what I would do if my roommate didn't appear at all even if dinner was over, the door opened and a wolfkin with beautiful silver hair entered.

"Are you my roommate?" (Emilia)

"Oh… that's right. My name is Fae… it's Reese. What is your name?" (Reese)

"My name is Emilia. As you can see, I'm a wolfkin." (Emilia)

I almost revealed my real name but I told the name that I decided in advance for myself in a hurry. Although I wasn't asked, I told Emilia that I was the daughter of a certain noble and I enrolled at school because I didn't want to rely on my parents.

Well, when I looked at Emilia for the first time, I was fascinated with her beautiful silver hair. So, she must be a daughter of certain noble, because I thought that person was more excellent than me who was a royal in name.

“Reese-chan is coming to school to train, right? I came here with my master (goshujin-sama), Sirius-sama. Because I am Sirius-sama’s servant after all.” (Emilia)

Servant? Master!? Such beautiful girl is a servant!?

After that, she talked so much about her wonderful master, a person called Sirius. Her eyes glittered and I understand well because she trusted her master from the bottom of her heart. He’s fine with treating beastkin like family, just like Senia, who serves my elder sister.

It was easy to talk with her because she resembled Senia, we became friends after talking until late night. My school life looked favorable because I made friend on the first day of school… that’s what I thought but I was summoned to castle during the school entrance ceremony.

The reason I got summoned was to introduce me to the Bardfeld’s household members.

(Previously) all family members couldn’t gather because they were busy. Now, they gathered at last but… my three elder brothers were looking at me with pity in their eyes.

They probably felt troubled on how to treat me, the illegitimate child, but… I want them to stop pitying me. It was still better than being an enemy but I would probably run away if elder sister wasn’t there.

My elder brothers were gentle but father still remained cold.

Mother… Father is probably wonderful and splendid person but I don’t like how he looks at me. Is it alright if I wasn’t born?

I returned to school while I was still feeling down, and I became fine when I met Emilia. That's right, the place where I belong is not the castle but it's here. I have a friend, so I will work hard in school.

… That's what I thought but it wasn't easy.

The class that I entered, the Iron Class, was a hopeless class especially if one couldn't use magics from all attributes. Although my forte is water, I, who cannot use fire no matter what, was continuously ridiculed by my classmates. I'm fine if it's just me but I couldn't bare when they ridiculed my mother.

Day by day, it becomes more terrible with my classmate's insults because I still cannot use fire magic no matter how hard I tried. I hit a 'wall' as soon as I entered the school, I felt like crying.

Emilia, who was unable to let things pass unnoticed, kindly gave me advice. When I explained to Emilia about my current condition and whether I should worry about it, she gave suggestion while nodding greatly.

"In that case, why don't we consult Sirius-sama? That person can surely help Reese." (Emilia)

A few days later… I met the destined person.

I finished classes with a broken heart, and as I was heading to the library by Emilia's guidance, I met Sirius-kun.

He was amazing person according to Emilia but his appearance is just like an ordinary boy.

However, I can't see him being composed. I was wondering what he was reading about and when I looked, the title of the book was 'Culinary Encyclopedia'. I was surprised because he was reading with full concentration.

Emilia's younger brother, Reus-kun was also introduced at the same time. Although he looked very naughty, it was interesting to see him unable to go against Emilia. I seemed to get used to Reus-kun very fast because there was such a child in my hometown.

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After we finished introducing ourselves, I was invited to a dormitory called Diamond Cottage.

When I ate the cake that was brought and made by Sirius-kun, I lost myself for an instant. I didn't know there was such a delicious thing. I was somewhat satisfied but that was not the real issue.

And then, I tried to perform the problematic (attribute) magic but Sirius-kun found out easily about me being able to see spirits.

'Your life is over' or 'you will be kidnapped by terrible people if they know you can see spirits'... although mother said I should keep that as a secret, although elder sister didn't care... he knew my secret. However, far from being scared, Sirius-kun soothed me and suggested ways to manage spirits. I was happy when I heard he had met and made friends with someone who could see spirits other than me.

Furthermore, he even suggested solution to solve my class problems. It's not easy to do things for me even if I'm not royalty, so why are you easily helping me who you just met?

"It doesn't matter when it comes to spirits or nobles. Reese is our acquaintance and I want to help because you are Emilia's friend. That's just it." (Sirius)

He said the same words like elder sister.

This person is not like the one I saw in castle, who's concerned about money and honor. That is why Emilia and Reus completely trust this gentle person from the bottom of their hearts. As for this person, I thought it was alright to trust him from the bottom of my heart too.

It's strange because even though Sirius-kun has two servants who should take care of him, he cooks meals and feeds them. I was also fed but the meal was not something that I've seen in the castle or in my hometown. It doesn't have the same impact like the cakes but the dish called 'Nabe' was very delicious and I didn't know how many times I had second helpings. I am a bit jealous of those two because they are able to eat such meals every day.

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And then, at the end of negotiation, a [Trade] will be performed over me. Although Sirius-kun and Reus-kun fought in disadvantageous condition, they completely won even when there was difference in numbers. I heard that she was trained by Sirius-kun to fight together with Reus-kun. That's why I think Sirius-kun is really amazing person like what she said.

I longed for that strength that can break any kind of situation from the front without budging an inch, even when the opponents are either commoners or nobles. I also… wanted to be like them.

I don't have to cause any trouble to elder sister when my body and mind become strong, so I can help anyone like everyone helps me, right?

On the evening that day, I discussed about it during the time I went out together with the two of them to buy stuff to celebrate their victory.

"You see, Emilia, Reus-kun. Why did you become Sirius-kun's disciples?" (Reese)

"Well, the reason was that I wanted to become strong to protect Reus. But, the reason now is probably to be with Sirius-sama." (Emilia)

"I wanted to protect Nee-chan too. Now, I think I want to become strong because I want to stand side by side with Aniki." (Reus)

"Is that so… Mine is different after all." (Reese)

"Reese-ane, do you want to become Aniki's disciple?" (Reus)

“Yeah. I just wanted to be strong and I don’t have definite reason like you guys.” (Reese)

“There is no such thing.” (Emilia)

“But my reason is vague and it’s just more of my own self-satisfaction, so…” (Reese)

“Everyone has their own reason, right? Sirius-sama is a person who will respond if you have strong will.” (Emilia)

“Strong will…” (Reese)

I want to become strong. However, is that only it?

Although I got to know them for a short time, they always laugh and I like when Sirius-kun calmly watches the scenes. I recall that and… I understand the true reason.

I want to become their friend.

I want to receive training together with those two from Sirius-kun and I want to laugh together with everyone. I think that is surely a wonderful scene.

I, who understood the reason, decided to become his disciple.

I began to talk boldly during the celebration party, I want to be Sirius-kun… no, Sirius-san’s disciple.

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After I became Sirius-san’s disciple, productive days were waiting. It is difficult on that (training) part but I don’t really regret it.

Anyhow, I ran, I kept on running, and earnestly kept doing it. I became dispirited so many times but Emilia and Reus-kun encouraged me and Sirius-san continued pushing my back patiently even if I complained.

Although I didn't get up and I became unable to move because I fell over, Sirius-san patiently watched over me while lending me hand to get up.

I think the time that I started to think Sirius-san looks like a father figure was during that time. After all, I was given treatment when I got hurt, meals that were said to be delicious and with balanced nutrition, and various lessons with abundant information.

From the bottom of my heart, Sirius-san is surely my idealized image of a father. I kept chasing such a reliable back everywhere and I became able to adapt with the training. I was really happy when Sirius-san patted my head when I completed training for the first time.

From now on, my productive days will… it will..

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…Then, I woke up.

Although I sat only on a chair, it seemed I fell asleep a little. Do I have that many regrets even if I slept for that little only?

But, here is the reality. The full-length mirror in front of me reflected the figure of me wearing pure white wedding dress with my long hair tied.

"Have you woken up? It seems that you're tired but the actual ceremony will be starting soon." (??)

"There will be no problem. It's just that I was a little bit nervous and I couldn't sleep last night." (Reese)

The one who addressed me when I woke up was Kura-sama. He is the leading actor of the premarital ceremony and my future marriage partner.

Today, the ceremony is between me and… that Kura-sama.gbezdryery

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The story dates back to yesterday.

Sirius-kun and I came to elder sister's house because we were called by her but I was driven out from the room because she wanted to talk with Sirius-kun alone.

While I was waiting by having a friendly chat with Melt and Senia, a maid came in a hurry and looked at me.

"Faeris-sama! There's a messenger from the castle…" (??)

"I'm going to take over from here."

The one who came over was the man who took me away from my hometown. He didn't change at all during that time, like how he handed me letter (immediately when we met).

"That seal… is it from the King?" (Senia?)

"What is it this time? Senia, will you read it together with me?" (Reese)

"If you are fine with me, I'll be happy to do that." (Senia)

When I opened the seal and confirm the contents, I was asked to return to the castle and it was written that I was chosen as the partner of premarital ceremony.

While I was dumbfounded because I didn't get the meaning, Senia was enraged and drew closer to the errand messenger.

"What kind of thing is this? Neither Reese-sama and Lifell-sama permitted such behavior, do you think I will allow this!?" (Senia)

"Faeris-sama's parent is the King. This is the order from that King." (??)

"What parent? He didn't treat her like a real daughter and you want to call that a parent huh?" (Senia)

“I’m just a messenger. Since I have decided that I didn’t hear those earlier words, refrain those abusive remarks.” (??)

“If that’s the case, I’ll ask a direct question. Melt, I leave it to you after this.” (Senia)

It’s not good, Senia may really pressed about father. Let’s have her talk to elder sister once since I couldn’t make her calm down.

“Senia, calm down. I want you to inform this matter to Ane-sama.” (Reese)

“But this is your…” (Senia)

“I will be fine. I cannot go against Tou-sama’s order, so I’ll be going to the castle for a moment.” (Reese)

“…Certainly. However, please don’t be rash.” (Senia)

Senia went to elder sister’s room while gritting her teeth. I was led by the messenger to the carriage which had been parked outside, but Melt raised his voice while I was on my way.

“Faeris-sama. Since I am the Imperial Guard for the Princess, I cannot say much but please let me ask one thing. Before you go to the castle, wouldn’t it be better if you talk with the Princess once?” (Melt)

As a guard for elder sister, he rarely says anything to me but I wonder if he worried about me when he asked that? I was somewhat happy when I thought about it.

“I’m sorry. I don’t want to trouble Ane-sama, so I’ll go.” (Reese)

“…Understood.” (Melt)

Like Senia, Melt went back and I went to the castle on the carriage.

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And then, I received various explanations from father in the castle.

It was about the matter of premarital ceremony, about the noble who will become my partner, and he said I would quit from school after the ceremony.

I didn't like that. If I cannot go to school, I cannot meet Sirius-san and Emilia. Therefore, I refused.

"If that's the case, let's have Lifell instead. Fortunately, it seems her illness got cured." (Cardias?)

Elder sister said few days ago, that it was a good thing to get sick because she could meet my friends and the premarital engagement that had been decided since long time ago was no more. Although the illness was cured with much effort… elder sister will be sacrificed if I don't do it?

I also don't want that. After all, elder sister has Melt. Elder sister and Melt-san are childhood friends. Melt-san reached to the top of Imperial Guards because he wanted to protect elder sister wholeheartedly. Elder sister loves Melt-san dearly. Although it was like that on the surface, Melt-san didn't look at her as a princess but as a woman. I cannot selfishly break such well matched couple.

There was no other choice.

"No, I'll do it instead of Ane-sama!" (Reese)

Father muttered "Is that so?" at my determination and left. Maybe it's just my imagination but I wonder if I saw him having a complicated expression for a little bit?

Since it was said that I couldn't leave the castle until the ceremony ended, I had to stay in the castle today.

I heard from a person in the castle that elder sister came to stop the ceremony but it seemed she was sent to a slightly remote sanatorium by father's order. I cried when I heard about her.

Elder sister… thank you very much. Since it's good enough for me with your feelings, elder sister, please become happy with your loved one.

I was led to the parlor since I didn't have room in the castle. It was a wide room furnished with high class furniture.

Even though it's a luxurious room, I don't feel any charm to it at all. When I looked around, I thought that a small room where Emilia presents me with daily goods nearby was much better.

I didn't feel like standing up or going to do something, so I laid down on the big bed and curled up. This situation is a similar situation when I came to the castle for the first time. Elder sister came during that time but no one is here now and no one is coming.

But, I am different from those days. I can endure this… since two years have passed and I have grown up.

That's right, I am satisfied entirely if I can endure this. I won't be able to go to school, living together with noble partner that will make me unable to meet Emilia anymore.

I couldn't sleep even if I tried to persuade myself and I continued staring at the moon absentmindedly.

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And then, it comes to this moment.

A mirror that reflected the form of me wearing wedding dress. It is a garment that a girl longed for but I am not happy at all.

"Well then, Faeris-sama, shall we go to the assembly hall?" (??)

"Understood." (Reese)

My partner, Kura-sama is a young man whose age is more than 18 years old with good figure and it seems he is very popular among women. Furthermore, Kura-sama is the son of the Elysion's prominent nobles and his father contributes a lot in Elysion.

Those contributions are valued and to adopt them into royal families, father…decided to choose me since my 'under age' period is almost over.

I talked to Kura-sama a bit and honestly, he is gentle and not a bad person for a marriage partner. However, I can slightly see the feeling of emptiness in his eyes and that arouses unpleasant feelings. Of course, it's probably my imagination but I understand the real strength that I can feel from Sirius-san's and Reus' eyes when they looked at me. I somewhat can't help to see him like a puppet forced to be good child.

However, I am unable to refuse this now. My hand was held by Kura-sama and while having unpleasant feelings, I was led to the assembly hall on the fourth floor of the castle.

"The leading actors have arrived, it's the entrance of Kura-sama and Fearis-sama." (??)

The moment I entered the assembly hall which was gorgeously decorated, I was trembling by the countless protruding gazes and applause arose.

Father sat at the conspicuous location among people that I don't know but his cold eyes were unchanging like last time.

In the meeting hall that fit more than fifty people, Kura-sama and I were led to chairs on stage and took a seat. An old man with fine dress clothes came out to the front of assembly hall and started giving a speech with voice that can be heard by everyone.

"This evening, for the sake of performing unification ceremony between our family and royal family, many people gather…" (??)

And then, various people came forward to give speech but I didn't understand their speech at all. I only looked at the entire assembly hall with utter amazement. The world seemed to have lost its color, as if the feeling of the entire world is grey.

There were people with good build and outfits, and multicolored cuisines were lined up on the table. And then, the serving maids seemed busy moving around the place.

Meanwhile, a maid with a small back caught my eyes. She was smaller compared to surrounding maids but I had a feeling of seeing the movement of a girl with black hair somewhere…

"… Emilia?" (Reese)

Despite of having black hair and ear's properly concealed by a large headband, that maid was Emilia that I always see. Did she realize my glance? I was certain because as soon as she looked to my direction, she waved her small hand while laughing.

"So… you have come." (Reese)

I was really happy because she came here even by disguising herself. The grey world that I've seen suddenly glittered. That's because if Emilia is here, Sirius-san and Reus must be nearby too. I became happy and looked around the assembly hall to find those two.

Reus was found shortly after. Because if a tall child of that age mixed with adults, I think he will be seen as an adult with a baby face. He wore a tailcoat, his hair was dyed with black color and he walked around, holding wineglass tray with one hand.

He always behaves freely but I can't help looking at him strangely moving like a butler. When my lips became loose, Kura-sama, who sat next to me, stood up and addressed the crowd in the assembly hall.

"Everyone, I am Kura, the next head of the family. I will be bound with the one who sits next to me, Faeris-sama. And then, Elysion is…" (Kura)

I came back to the reality when I looked up at him making speech with loud voice.

I haven't seen Sirius-san yet but I'm sure those three came here to save me. However, even if I'm saved, elder sister will become the replacement. Even though I am here, it won't be

happening. My determination became dull at the strong (helping) hands that appeared before my eyes.

Besides, if I'm saved, Sirius-san and others will surely be hunted by father and nobles. As for my sake, Sirius-san said he had no problem being hunted by the royal family. Although I was really happy when he smoothly said it, I don't like how he becomes like that because of me.

So please, don't get high hopes. Because… this is for the best.

"Everyone in the assembly hall, please look here." (Kura)

When Kura-sama's speech finished, the host attracted the audience attention with a big thing covered with a cloth. The cloth was taken away at the moment when I was still guessing. There was a huge short cake as tall as my height appeared.

"This is congratulatory gift from Galgan company. More than the taste, this splendid decoration befits for today." (??)

Amazing. This cake is manifold bigger than the cakes that I always see. It is beautifully covered entirely with cream. There is no one who can make such thing but Sirius-san. Did he make that for me?

I would've jumped happily if this was two days ago but it felt empty now.

Besides, it is fine if it's not this big.

A small cake is cut for four people. Whoever gets the biggest portion will get picked on. Sirius-san, who can't just let it go, shares his portion with us. That is a regular scene that happens in the Diamond Cottage.

Although I endured it… although I didn't show my feeling, I didn't realize my tears flowing from my eyes. I became flustered and hurriedly looked down but the tears flow didn't stop.

It's because… it's because…y

When the ceremony is over, those fun days… won't come anymore.

"… No…" (Reese)

[Understood.] (??)

My heart jumped when I suddenly heard a voice in my head. I looked up on the assembly hall while forgetting to wipe my ears.

"What?" (??)

"Oi, what is happening?" (??)

"Call the palace guards! It's a state of emergency!" (??)

Before anyone realized, the assembly hall was covered with dense fog and the field of vision was blocked. This is similar to [Aqua Mist] but I don't remember using it. While everybody letting out voices of confusion, I asked water spirits to secure the vision and four magic formations can be seen installed at four corners of the assembly hall. Those formations probably invoked the fog.

"Faeris-sama! Please don't part from me!" (Kura)

When I was looking towards the magic formations, I was pulled by Kura-sama from the rear. I was probably discovered because I was nearby but it was unpleasant to be pulled. I unintentionally pushed him.

"What happened? It's me, Kura, your fiance." (Kura)

"I'm sorry! But I…" (Reese)

"Please think properly. Elysion will be safe if you are bound to me. This is your father's and my opinion, you know?" (Kura)

"Stop it! Don't look at me with such empty eyes!" (Reese)

My patience already reached its limit. Was I affected by the disturbance in the assembly hall? I could no longer hide my true feeling anymore. Just now, his empty puppet-like eyes were scary.

“Why!? I just want to make Elysion wealthy…” (Kura)

“That is unsightly. Be aware that you are dumped.” (??)

I looked back for the voice that I heard, a man, who wore full-length white robe with his face covered with white mask, stood up.

“What are you!” (Kura)

“I’m a person who came to kidnap that child.” (Sirius)

I know who he is when I heard his voice. I was always being watched. So, it’s impossible to get confused when I heard that kind man’s voice.

“Kidnap? This ceremony is performed by the order of the King! Do you think that you can ruin it and can get away with that?” (Kura)

“That’s a minus. If you are a man, you should worry about your bride first, rather than the King.” (Sirius)

“W-what!?” (Kura)

“I checked on you thoroughly, you are a wonderful puppet of your parents. Even though there are many you can love other than her, so what are you doing here?” (Sirius)

“S-shut up! Despite not knowing what kind of thought I gave for this child, that was the talk from the top!” (Kura)

“Come on, can you say your own opinion properly? Say it proudly to your parents. You are a man, not your parent’s puppet.” (Sirius)

“I am (not) a puppet… gaah!” (Kura)

He grasped the gap when Kura was confused by drawing closer to land a hit on his stomach and he fainted. When I looked at him with surprise, he, who dyed with bright white, came in front of me and held out his hand.

“Faeris-sama, I’ve come to kidnap you.” (Sirius)

“Siri-… mguh” (Reese)

“Say that name later, OK.” (Sirius)

My lips were blocked with hands when I tried to call out his name. I wonder why I became really happy with this. I’m happy but… it’s not good.

“…I’m really happy you came to kidnap me. However, I have to remain here and it’s not good if I don’t continue the ceremony.” (Reese)

“It’s not necessary for you to continue with the ceremony. Let’s escape from here with us.” (Sirius)

“If I don’t proceed with the ceremony, I will be replaced by Ane-sama. That’s why, if I endure this, everything will…” (Reese)

“That would be a problem. Although it is my intention to kidnap you, it is also a request from your sister.” (Sirius)

Request from elder sister? But she was sent to a sanatorium. So, how did she request him?

“A certain rabbit-kin came to me in the late night yesterday to request it. They wanted me to kidnap you from the premarital ceremony.” (Sirius)

“Ane-sama… Senia…” (Reese)

“And I have message from your Nee-san. ‘Please be more selfish’… that’s what she said.” (Sirius)

Those words are the words that she said to me unreservedly so many times.

If I receive such words during that time, I…

“Being selfish… is it alright if I say it?” (Reese)

“Aah, it’s alright. Besides, your Nee-san is very smart, she can do whatever she wants with the marriage. She didn’t ask you to endure it by yourself or something, so please rely on your Nee-san and us.” (Sirius)

“Yeah… right.” (Reese)

“Let’s return soon. It’s impossible with that size of wedding cake but I’ll bake big cake so we can eat together with your Onee-san.” (Sirius)

“… Alright!” (Reese)

My selfish desire is to return to the place where everyone is. Eating meals and cakes together with everyone. And I'll be… with Sirius-san and others.

I held out my and grasped his… Sirius-san's hand.

"Please… kidnap me." (Reese)

Even though Sirius-san was wearing a mask, I'm sure he was laughing when he held my hand and we began walking away.

"Heee, I can't see anything! Somebody, blow the fog away with wind magic!" (??)

"I did it already! But, the fog won't go away no matter how many times I try!" (??)

The people in the assembly were trying to do something to [Aqua Mist] but the fog was brought forth by nothing else but the installed magic formations. There is no mistake that Sirius-san prepared those magic formations.

Although this is a situation which can hardly be seen in normal circumstances, we gained some time to escape because there were four installed magic formations. Father… didn't move from his seat. Together with the Imperial Guards, the instructions were given to calm the surroundings.

I didn't see Emilia and Reus but they are probably fine since Sirius-san doesn't say anything.

"Well then, let's escape after this…" (Sirius)

"Everyone, get out from the assembly hall! A thief has gotten in here!" (??)

"What are you! Who am I speaking too… uuu!?" (??)

"It's the King's order, don't let anyone go outside!" (??)

The castle's guard already stood in front of the assembly hall's door, no one failed to capture nobles who tried to escape. So, how are we going to escape from here?

“They are just the castle’s guards but their response is fast. It can’t be helped then. Both of you, let’s proceed with Plan B.” (Sirius)

When Sirius-san muttered something, the assembly hall’s window was broken and there was loud noise echoed. It also happened to other windows where it broke in succession and the confusion inside the assembly hall was getting bigger.

I wasn’t affected by the fog, so I could see Emilia and Reus fired magic towards windows. The reason why they could break the windows accurately was probably because Sirius-san set the magic formations so that those two are not going to be affected by [Aqua Mist].

We walked away by taking advantage of the confusion, we got away from the broken window to the balcony. The night is bright today because of full moon, its brightness can make a slight faraway places be seen.

“Please wait a second because I need to prepare something.” (Sirius)

When Sirius-san said that, he held his hand outside of the balconies handrails. Here is the fourth floor of the castle. If I look down, I can see the stone pavement on the ground in great distance. I am certain I will die if I fall down, so why did we come here?

While I was thinking the problem, Emilia and Reus got out from the fog. Although there is slight incompatibility with black hair, I’m happy I can meet them again.

“Emi-… are you injured?” (Reese)

“No, I’m safe.” (Emilia)

“This much is just light wounds.” (Reus)

I almost called their name unintentionally but I’m going to mess it up since they were on disguise. I wanted to talk about various things but Emilia and Reus were smiling when they looked at my dress.

“That dress is totally suits you.” (Emilia)

“Yeah, it’s beautiful.” (Reus)

“… Thank you.” (Reese)

Kura-sama and the maids said I was beautiful. Even so, I am many times happier when those two say it. Nothing is over yet but I am happy and I seem to have shed tears again.

The source of the fog was on their hands. They were holding clothes that had been inscribed with magic formation. Therefore, the fog inside the assembly hall became gradually weak. At the moment when I thought so, I could see shadows in the fog.

“Who’s on the balcony!?” (??)

Did someone notice?

While I could hear several people steps from inside of the fog, Sirius-san took something similar to big hook and hanged it in the air.

Eh? Why did it stay in the air? Aah, it’s Sirius-san’s [String]. Sirius-san [String] is very strong. It doesn’t break off even if the three of us pull it with all of our strength. Emilia and Reus also took out the same thing and they lined up behind Sirius-san.

Could this be…

“Well then, shall we go?” (Sirius)

“Err… Is it from here?” (Reese)

“Of course. Come on, hold tightly.” (Sirius)

I thought it was scary to jump from this height but I just tightly hold Sirius-san and I didn’t care what happened after that. Although there was nothing but unpleasant feelings when I was held by Kura-sama, I felt relieved when I held Sirius-san. Why is that? Is it because of Sirius-san’s smell or presence?

A [String] coiled around me. And at the moment when I was glued to Sirius-san… we jumped out to the sky.

“Hiii!?” (Reese)

We glide along the lengthened [String] in the air. I almost scream unintentionally when facing the wind pressure but I became relaxed because I could feel the warmness of our attached bodies.

We continued gliding in the air and of course there was an end spot. I’m not sure about the velocity and we are going to bump into the tree that had been connected with [String].

“Sirius-san, the tree!” (Reese)

“I know. Don’t bite your tongue.” (Sirius)

When I was wondering what Sirius-san said, he released the hook from his hand and we dropped down from a high height. I unintentionally closed my eyes while having floating feeling throughout my body. Then I felt impact twice and we landed on the ground.

While it was still incomprehensible, I was going to make a cushion with water magic since Emilia was falling instantly from the sky but I was stopped by Sirius-san. And then, a strong high wind arose and Emilia’s falling velocity decreased and she finally landed gently on the ground. That’s right, Emilia is good at wind magic.

Reus was falling next. He grabbed a branch midway to revolve spinningly, kicked it to reduce his falling velocity and he finally landed splendidly on the ground. Their physical conditions are amazing as ever.

It is regrettable to be separated from Sirius-san and when I looked at the castle, the balcony where we stood until a while ago looks very small. Although we were completely surrounded, we were able to escape immediately.

“Reese, I’m sorry but can you make two big [Aqua]?” (Emilia?)

“Eh? Yes, alright.” (Reese)

When I make two big two big balls of water in the air, the siblings put their head in to wash their hair. Then, their black hair reverted to silver hair and they wiped their hair with the clothes they abruptly took out. I was surprised for a moment but they were wearing their usual clothes underneath their maid dress and tailcoat. In the meantime, Sirius-san removed the magic formation from the clothes and threw it into the hole on the ground.

“Say… what is that?” (Reese)

“We are destroying the evidence. After that, we are done when the hole is covered.” (Sirius)

When he invoked the magic formation again to cover the hole, it returned to the ground as if nothing had happened. The trace of magic formation was cancelled by using a branch and then Sirius-san looked at us who stood up side by side.

“Don’t be careless since the mission still continues. Do you remember the merging location?” (Sirius)

“I’m fine. I intend to move eastward.” (Emilia)

“I’ll go while confirming the rear.” (Reus)

“Excellent. Well then, shall we go?” (Sirius)

They left me while proceeding with their talks. Emilia approached me while I was still at loss, she muttered words to my ear.

“Emilia… what do you mean by that?” (Reese)

“It is like what I’ve said. Well then, I’ll see you again after this.” (Emilia)

“See you, Reese-ane.” (Reus)

Emilia and Reus waved their hands while laughing, their figures were no longer able to be seen in the blink of an eye when they began running deep into the forest.

When I, who was left behind, turned my eyes to Sirius-san, he suddenly put his arm to my knee and back and I was lifted up. That was the figure of a princess being embraced by a prince mentioned in books, that pose is popularly known as princess carry.

It is a pose of a princess being carried by a prince in tales. The truth is I secretly longed for it. I'm embarrassed but… I'm happy.

"As for carrying a princess, I think this is the manner to hold you, what do you think?" (Sirius)

"It is… not bad." (Reese)

"That is good then. I'm going to fly from here on, so close your eyes if you are scared." (Sirius)

Sirius-san jumps while holding me. Although we should drop down immediately, he kicked the air and flew up furthermore. In the blink of an eye, we were at a higher position than the trees and we're continuously flying through the sky.

"S-Sirius-san, a-are we flying!?" (Reese)

"This is also my magic. I'm making a scaffold in the air, and then I kick it to fly." (Sirius)

Just by kicking only… I can't believe it. I didn't understand it well when I was gliding through the air earlier but I understand it clearly now. I am flying in the sky.

Usually, I would close my eyes because of fear. But it wasn't scary because I was embraced by Sirius-san.

"Where are we heading too?" (Reese)

"Farther ahead there is a lake, I think? We are going to fly straight ahead to cross over the lake." (Sirius)

Based on Sirius-san's explanation, I saw the lake a bit when we crossed over it. A splendid scene came before us when we flew over the lake.

The wind probably is weak today so the lake's surface reflected the sky like a mirror. I saw it as if there were two moons in the sky and on the lake.

"Waa… that's amazing." (Reese)

"Aah, this is also another wonder of nature." (Sirius)

I saw Sirius-san's mask suddenly in such an amazing sight. Although it was worn for the sake of disguising, I wonder why he didn't take it off. It's going to be hard to see like before but I want to see Sirius-san's face after all.

"Sirius-san, may I take off your mask?" (Reese)

"Hmm? Aah. It is fine because we have come this far. Since my hands are full, I leave it to you." (Sirius)

I take the mask off without disturbing him and I see Sirius-san's face that I always see. And then, he looked at me, and laughed with a smile.

"Thank you." (Sirius)

At that moment… my heart was jumping greatly.

My body became hot and moved intensely like my heart was about to be broken.

Although there were many moments like this up till now but this time it's totally different.

It is hard to look at Sirius-san's face but I can't take my eyes away from him.

Is it because I like him?

But I can't. Sirius-san has Emilia. Besides, I only think of him similar to a reliable father.

I was yearning to fly high in the sky, wearing wedding dress and embraced like a princess, like in story tales.

I am really happy I can meet a figure of reliable father, there is no doubt about that feeling.

I recalled the time when Emilia muttered words to my ear not too long ago. I was convinced during that time.

“Be honest with your feelings.” (Emilia)

… Emilia… is that OK?

Is it really OK?

Unless… you don’t mean in that way?

My honest feeling…

Not as a father but as a man…

I like… Sirius-san.

There is no legendary sword or riding on the back of the dragon like in fairy tales.

He is just a commoner who wears a mask and white cloth.

But, Sirius-san is…

There is no mistake that the person who kidnapped me in order to help me is…

My prince.

シリウス Sirius
お姫様を攫うなら
こう抱くのがマナーかと思うんだ。
嫌なら止めるけど……
その……これでお願いします
リース Wreath
夜の空中散歩——

Chapter 42

My Prince (Behind the Scenes)

“Got it, Danna. I will immediately contact the person in charge at the castle.” (Zack)

“Aah, I leave it to you. Since I’ve come to prepare for tomorrow morning, obviously I’ll prepare the ingredients at the same time.” (Sirius)

“Leave it to me. Well then, please come again tomorrow.” (Zack)

We are preparing to use Galgan Company as a front to sneak into the castle the day before the premarital ceremony for Reese is scheduled to happen.

Galgan Company will send a cake to the castle as a congratulatory gift for the ceremony. We will use that to slip past the guards.

As the cake itself will be hollow, I’ll be hiding inside it when I sneak in. Whether or not I kidnap her from that point on will depend on how she answers my questions.

Whether the castle ends up accepting the cake or not, the Galgan Company is readily on board with our plan. Even if the cake isn’t accepted, we’ll think of another way.

“Reese… it’s alright if you are unusually worried, but to go this far…” (Emilia)

“I think she is really worried, and Reese-ane is always stubborn at odd places.” (Reus)

“Anyway, we’ll see her tomorrow.” (Sirius)

In reality, this marriage is entirely political. I understand that it is a terrible idea to interfere, given the significance to the country of Elysion. I also understand very well, that going through with this could render me an enemy of the state, and an enemy of its’ allies.

But, I've come to know Reese and her tendencies very well over the past two years, short as they were. She is a shy, but diligent person. She has trouble expressing her own opinions easily, but is very considerate of others and constantly willing to risk herself for them. Due to this, it is highly likely that she volunteered herself as a substitute for Princess Lifell.

Therefore, I will pay her a visit tomorrow to ask her what her true intentions are. If she seriously wants to live as a royal, I'll refrain from acting, and simply leave. It will be lonely around without her, but it's a master's duty to see their disciples off in the world.

"Well then, Aniki. We're going back to the dorms." (Reus)

Good night, Sirius-sama." (Emilia)

Since I will be busy tomorrow, I've decided to let the siblings rest for the day.

◆ ◆ ◆

We separated in front of the school's dormitory. When I finally arrived back at Diamond Cottage alone, I promptly started preparing the tools and ingredients I would need to pull of my plan tomorrow successfully. Outside, I heard footsteps near the cottage. It was past curfew for the students, but whoever they belonged to was definitely heading my direction.

I confirmed the identity of the mysterious visitor using [Search], but once I recognized who they were, I went back to boiling water and waited. Shortly afterwards, I hear knocking on the door and open it.

"I apologize for the late visit, Sirius-sama. May I come in?" (Senia)

The visitor was Princess Lifell's servant, Senia. I wondered momentarily as to why she would pay me a visit so late in the evening, but seeing as she came alone, I assumed it to be about Reese. Somewhat cautiously, I invited her in. I served her a cup of Black Tea, and waited for her explanation.

"Pardon the low-grade tea." (Sirius)

“How polite of you, I’ll gratefully accept it. Before that, I must thank you for accomodating me, despite the abrupt visit. Honestly, it’s about Reese-sama.” (Senia)

“It was no trouble at all. Would you mind elaborating on what exactly about Reese you wish to discuss?” (Sirius)

Senia explained the situation at the castle up to now. Reese, after agreeing to the ceremony, has shut herself in one of the castle rooms, isolating herself. Princess Lifell tried to stop the ceremony but was sent to a medical institution, located far enough away such that she would no longer be able to interfere.

“Princess Lifell objected to this ceremony since the beginning, but felt even worse when she realized Reese’s intention. She obediently accepted being sent to the medical facility, but before they sent her away she hatched a plan.” (Senia)

“I don’t suppose, that plan is…?” (Sirius)

“Yes, you’re intelligent enough to understand immediately. Though, I feel the need to stress that this request is not from the Kingdom, but from Reese’s family.” (Senia)

She paused, lowered her head deeply, and announced:

“Please kidnap Reese-sama during tomorrow’s ceremony.” (Senia)

Was Princess Lifell also distressed about the ceremony? Nevertheless, I can’t disobey boldly at the country’s policy even if it’s a request from the princess of the country, so I pretended to be neutral and took a step. And that step… is my only reason. Although most people might look at me and think me a child, Princess Lifell doesn’t. She considers it worthwhile to rely on me, and she understands my disposition towards the matter. Thus, she has come to me with the request.

“Put simply, she realizes that this request to oppose a country is absurd, and that this matter is not related to Sirius-sama. As such, although it is a little unfair, we have decided to request this because we believed that given your position, you would have a hard time refusing. Would you please accept our request?” (Senia)

That's troublesome for me… but it's alright.

If Princess Lifell were going to simply use me, she wouldn't have used this method. Besides, even without her requesting this of me, I already planned to go to castle to meet with Reese. I can feel relieved knowing that now I have the backing of the princess, instead of nobody at all.

"I accept your request." (Sirius)

"Thank you very much. Since I can't move openly, I really appreciate your willingness." (Senia)

Senia deeply bowed her head apologetically.

Having said that, to kidnap Reese is a last resort because I have to wholly consider her true feelings after all. Thus, I have to listen and act based on the situation at that place.

"It is Lifell-sama's, and my own, will for you to save Reese-sama. As for Reese-sama relying on you too much, we will leave future action to you, and trust you to make the best decisions for her sake." (Senia)

"So, it is like that. Senia-san also worries about Reese." (Sirius)

"Yes, because I think of her like my younger sister. I wouldn't be qualified as a servant if I were to say that in front of my master, though." (Senia)

Her expression was full of affection, it seemed that she really worried about Reese.

"Since it's impossible to only depend on Sirius-sama, is there something I can help with? Please tell me anything." (Senia)

"If I do it, isn't there a route to infiltrate the castle?" (Sirius)

If it's just me, with the experience from my previous life, it would be easy to infiltrate the castle. However, this isn't the case for the siblings. There is the plan to hide inside the cake,

but that would go more smoothly if we could have someone on the inside to authorize it, rather than relying on luck.

“Using my connections, I could probably get them in as servants of the castle. Those two have the skills necessary, so all we would need to do is disguise them.” (Senia)

“If that’s the case, how about all three of us introduce ourselves to that person? I could easily sneak in as an apprentice of the Galgan Company, while they are disguised as servants.” (Sirius)

“Certainly. One more request; if it becomes a situation where you’re going to kidnap Reese-sama, would you please bring her to Lifell-sama’s location?” (Senia)

“Lifell-sama was at a medical facility, correct? Where is that located, specifically?” (Sirius)

“It is on far side of the lake, northwest of the castle. The building itself is extremely conspicuous, as you will understand as you get closer to it. I will prepare a horse and carriage inside the castle grounds, so please use those to escape.” (Senia)

Secretly, I had flown around important locations in Elysion and their surrounding areas late at night to draw maps with accurate parameters. I indeed recalled a suspicious medium-sized building near the area Senia described.

Any pursuers are likely to give chase immediately if I escape by horse and carriage, thus multiple decoys are going to be deployed to throw them off of our trail. It is a reasonable precaution to take, a princess is potentially about to be kidnapped after all.

“I know the location. Besides that, we don’t necessarily need to escape by carriage. We could always run away through the forest.” (Sirius)

“But the distance is great, you know? It’s going to hurt Reese-sama’s feet.” (Senia)

“I was training her alongside the siblings, she’ll be alright. Moreover, we always run in the forest while training, an escape would be much easier on her in comparison.” (Sirius)

The Diamond Cottage is surrounded by a similar forest. They earnestly ran a whole course of rough terrain in the forest under the pretense of training, and can with confidence say that they would equal even veteran adventures in terms of mobility in such an environment.

Worst case scenario, I can just hold Reese and fly. It's unfortunate that I wouldn't be able to carry the siblings as well, but they could just run to catch up.

"…Understood. If that's the case, I'll deploy the carriages anyway to serve as a distraction." (Senia)

"Yes, please. And when is the ceremony?" (Sirius)

"It will be tomorrow evening. Since I'll arrive a short while before that, where should we meet?" (Senia)

"Let's meet at Galgan company please. If we meet there, I can just bring the siblings myself. They won't arouse suspicions there. (Sirius)

"Understood. Would you like information on anything else?" (Senia)

"Please tell me in detail about her marriage partner, and the itinerary for the ceremony." (Sirius)

After I received the information, with her business with me concluded, Senia returned to Princess Lifell's side. As she stepped out into the dark of night, she turned back and said;.

"Lastly… when you meet with Reese-sama, please pass along Lifell-sama's message. Tell her to please be more selfish." (Senia)

"That's a perfect message for her. Alright, I will certainly tell her." (Sirius)

She laughed, and vanished into the dark. Normally, someone with her position would have an escort, however she has considerable ability. Even should she be ambushed by a gang

of thieves, she could turn the table on them in an instant. Though, for the record, there are no such guys anywhere near here.

Now, I have things to do. I need to prepare various things, as well as revise my plan to accommodate this new information.

I returned to my own room in Diamond Cottage, and opened the door hidden under my bed. It leads to the basement, where I hide assets I'd rather avoid revealing to the public. The door is perfectly disguised, and even Emilia is unable to enter since I've used both a magic key and a custom magic formation to seal it. I don't want the disciples stumbling into such a place and hurting themselves, or discovering things I've tried to hide.

I quickly fetched a pair of clothes that I've created, heavily resembling the agent uniform from my previous life. It is dark bluish, and does a good job disguising me at night. It appears black in the dark, but the colors are common enough to not arouse suspicion in other circumstances. After confirming that the outfit is in perfect condition, I take of flying into the night.

It's time to pay a visit to Reese's potential partner, Kura Bariti.

◆ ◆ ◆

I want to know what kind of man this Kura is. Furthermore, I plan to investigate until I grasp the true natures of both the Bariti house, and that of its patriarch. I frequently went for such intelligence gathering in my previous life, and I'm hesitant to trust rumors, given how underdeveloped intelligence gathering is in this world.

I descend a short distance from the walled residence, thanking Senia in my head for disclosing its location. As expected, a house of this status has plenty of guards patrolling, but I immediately find an opening with [Search]. Using a combination of [String] and [Boost], I launch myself over the wall.

I realized the true face of the Bariti household as I looked through documents in an office. From the story that I heard, it seemed that their huge contributions to Elysion were recognized by the King, however that isn't all there is to it.

As much as they've cultivated their public personality, they've grown their notoriety just as much. Concealing fraud and embezzlement is natural for a house of this status, however they also employ people from the underworld to remove hindrances, and are willing to do just about anything to raise their status further. They wear a mask of virtue to distract others, and disguise the wickedness in their hearts. That said, they've been a little sloppy with their methods. If any of these documents were to get out, their whole operation would crumble overnight.

As expected, this country operates not only with virtue, but with wickedness as well. Though, I doubt the King is aware of this. The uncomfortable feeling I've had with this ceremony is becoming clearer with each passing moment.

I start to grab documents for evidence, returning my thoughts to the situation at hand. While doing so, I was startled by a loud voice in a neighboring room. Thoroughly distracted, I headed there. Peering into the room, I could see a young man being scolded by a dignified older man.

"I say this again and again. You need to listen to what I say more often! Thanks to me, our family has risen this far, hasn't it?" (??)

"That's right. But I…" (Kura)

"This is a chance for my house to rise in status to that of a royal house! Just give up on that girl! With her weak constitution, you can't have a future with her anyway!" (??)

"… Understood." (Kura)

Seeing his features that I heard from Senia, it seemed that young handsome man is called Kura. He couldn't voice his own opinion in front of his parents, instead agreeing with their every word, albeit begrudgingly.

Kura left his parents with a frustrated feeling in his heart, heading to his room. I followed him stealthily. By the time we entered Kura's room, I had fully understood the situation in the Bariti household.

Kura himself is still “white”, however constantly having to bow to his parents is turning his heart “grey”.

The problem here is, unsurprisingly, Kura’s parents. They are completely “black”.

(EDN: White here refers to being “pure of heart”, with grey being “mostly pure/slightly corrupted”, and finally black meaning “completely corrupt”. This feels rather obvious to me, but I’ve put this note here just in case it isn’t to others.)

Though I am tempted to make a move now, if I do something carelessly, it could have disastrous consequences. This is compounded by their large contributions to the kingdom. I’ll forget the documents I’ve procured here, and instead bring it up with Princess Lifell at a later time.

Meanwhile, it’s already past midnight when I got back to Diamond Cottage. I can feel exhaustion setting in, but I have to make the cake for the ceremony tomorrow. Since Galgan Company still doesn’t have the pseudo-ovens, I can only make the cake here at the cottage. Even if I were to nap on the way to the ceremony, I still won’t be getting enough sleep tonight. My heart lets out a sigh.

◆ ◆ ◆

Finally, the day of the ceremony has arrived.

I completed the cake last night, before arriving here at the company this morning.

Beside me, the siblings stand disguised. Their lovely silver hair has been painted black using a safe mixture much like paint. Aside from the color, their tails have been hidden within their clothes, and their ears restricted with headbands. I apologise secretly, as they will have to endure the uncomfortable feeling of having their ears restricted for a while yet.

A carriage with Senia inside arrived at Galgan Company by evening. Senia was surprised when she looked at the huge wedding cake, but I didn’t see her swallowing her saliva. The siblings and Zack, on the other hand, were frustrated that they couldn’t eat even a little. You guys will get heartburn if you eat such huge cake, you know?

We load up on the carriage and embark towards the castle. We will be posing as representatives of Galgan company. As far as the guard inspection goes, hopefully Senia will do something about that.

“Sirius-sama, it’s finally time.” (Emilia)

“Yeah. Sorry, but I’ll be relying on you two for a while.” (Sirius)

“For Reese-ane, this is nothing at all.” (Reus)

I confirm the prepared costume one more time. Though I am currently wearing the Galgan Company uniform, I need something that disguises me perfectly should the need arise. The costume I’ve prepared comes in two parts; a white mask that covers the whole face apart from the eyes, and a full-length white robe large enough to not be able to tell my body shape. It is not unlike what the Pope would wear in my previous life. With these two items, nobody should be able to figure out my true identity.

My destination would be the assembly hall, where the dining would take place. Once there, all I have to do is wait for the ceremony to begin.

◆ ◆ ◆

And then, the premarital ceremony started.

Emilia and Reus moved around the assembly hall as a maid and butler respectively, while I looked around the assembly hall by crawling on the beams near the ceiling. Unlike those two, who were able to stroll right in, I had to hide in the cake. I hid up here, upon freeing myself from the cake before people began to gather.

Gathered inside the assembly hall are around fifty dignitaries of various influence. Random authorities and nobles chatted in small clusters while waiting for the main actors to take the stage.

“The leading actors have arrived; Kura-sama and Faeris-sama have made their entrance.” (??)

The attention of the room drew towards those two upon hearing that sentence, as Kura, who I had seen yesterday, and Reese entered the assembly hall. Reese was wrapped in an extravagant wedding dress.

Reese was visibly trembling, it seems she was completely overwhelmed with the atmosphere in the assembly hall. Her eyes darted around the room, and it seemed for a moment as though her emotions would come bursting forth suddenly. Luckily, for her dignity, she managed to get a grip on herself for the sake of her role.

“We gather here this evening, to celebrate the unification of the Bariti family, and the royal family…” (??)

Reese was initially disinterested in the ceremony, with an apathetic look on her face. Halfway through though, she started smiling enthusiastically. Following Reese’s line of sight, a disguised Emilia could be seen waving at her. Her mood went through a rapid shift, and she began gazing around the assembly hall looking for the rest of us. It seemed at first as though she noticed our presence, but she looked down immediately with clouded expression.

“Everyone in the assembly hall, may I have your attention please.” (Kura)

The cake that I made was presented to guests, and I can’t help but wonder what their reactions would be if they knew that the interior of the cake was hollow.

As one would expect, due to the current situation, Reese wasn’t happy even looking at her favorite cake. She was enduring it, but she had splendidly been obstinate up to this point.

However, if the ceremony proceeds any further, you won’t be able to back out. Are you really alright with this?

Should I kidnap her as it is by forcibly stepping in?

It is not technically an incorrect method, as this is by Princess Lifell’s request, but I want her to grow up mentally. I won’t rescue her from this unless she clearly states her intention. If you don’t want this, I want you to deny clearly. In that situation, I will…

I reflexively strengthen my hearing ability since Reese was looking down and shedding tears at that time.

"… No…" (Reese)

… She finally spoke her mind.

You surely act like a royal from a certain point of view, sacrificing yourself for your elder sister. However, you don't realize the damage your actions will cause. Your sister won't be happy about being freed from this burden by your sacrifice. On the contrary, she will feel nothing but guilt. It is a result that benefits neither sister, and I will gladly spoil the ceremony to right this, even if I am to be hunted as a result.

Besides, if my prediction is correct, this ceremony will surely…

[Initiate the operation.] (Sirius)

She is the main priority right now. I gave instruction by [Call], and the two siblings placed pieces of cloth marked with a [Aqua Mist] magic formation in each corner of the room. Using [String] I activated the magic formation on each piece of cloth.

[Understood] (Sirius)

I sent a word to Reese, swapped outfits promptly, and started moving. In the midst of turmoil, the siblings had already finished with the installation of the magic formations, and the room glowed with a bright white as mist filled the room.

I order the siblings to destroy the cake. Emilia fired [Air Shot], though she hesitated for a moment, and the cake that I spent hours to make was broken and scattered as if exploded. Such a waste, however it was necessary to prevent people from being suspicious of Galgan Company, were they to discover that the cake was hollow.

At that time, Kura grabbed Reese's wrist to secure and question her, however combining her stress and fright at this action, she snatched her wrist away. Kura, shocked at her action, stared at her for a moment before saying:

“Why!? I just want to make Elysion wealthy…” (Kura)

“That’s unsightly. Realize when you’ve been dumped.” (Sirius)

I snuck up behind them before interjecting. Reese had a complicated expression on due to this man.

“A kidnapping? This ceremony is taking place on the order of the King! Do you think that you can ruin it and get away with it?” (Kura)

“Wrong answer. If you are a man, you should worry about your bride first, rather than the King.” (Sirius)

That may have been common sense among nobles, but the bride here is my disciple, you know? If it is for Reese, I would gladly knock you down repeatedly. That you worry about such a trivial thing in this situation, how naive are you?

“I checked on you personally, you are a wonderful puppet of your parents. Tell me, why are you here when you could have someone, anyone, else?” (Sirius)

“S-shut up! To say such a thing, without knowing all that I’ve given up to do this! It was an order I couldn’t refuse!” (Kura)

Yesterday, the room that Kura to, after being scorned by the older man, had a woman sleeping on the bed inside.

She appeared truly happy to see Kura, as she beamed at him upon waking up. Even after Kura told her that he was ordered to marry Reese, she only shook her head and held his hands in her own.

“Kura-sama, please get married without worrying about me. If Kura-sama marries into the royal family, you’ll certainly be guaranteed a wonderful future. Please forget about me, who can’t even get up from this bed.” (??)

“How can I forget about you!? Even if my father ordered it, I couldn’t! I love you, this won’t ever change!” (Kura)

“Kura-sama… your feelings are enough for me. Please marry this woman, and be happy. That, in turn, will make me happy.” (??)

I’m not sure what her birthplace was, but it’s clear that they’ve fallen in love. Despite this, she was willing to give up on you for your happiness. Kura, I already know you’re a good person. The question is, how long do you plan to be a puppet?

“Come on, can you say your own opinion properly? Say it magnificently to your parents. You are a man, not your parent’s puppet.” (Sirius)

“I am a puppet… gaah!” (Kura)

(TLN: Sirius punched him in his stomach, refer to chapter 42)

Kura was fainted and I faced Reese. I seemed to understand her because she didn’t sound different.

“Faeris-sama, I come to kidnap you.” (Sirius)

“Siri-… mguh” (Reese)

Oi oi, it is pointless to disguise myself if you call my name. I covered her mouth quickly to stifle her words, but she looks oddly pleased with this situation…

She opened her mouth after short while, having reverted back to her normal meek self.

“…I’m really happy you came to kidnap me. However, I have to remain here, it wouldn’t be good if I didn’t continue the ceremony.” (Reese)

“It’s not necessary for you to continue with the ceremony. Escape from here with us.” (Sirius)

“If I don’t proceed with the ceremony, I will be replaced by Ane-sama. That’s why, if I endure this, everything will…” (Reese)

Endure it… huh. Even though you admitted clearly that this was an unpleasant matter, you still want to sacrifice yourself for the sake of your older sister. Usually, she is an obedient and gentle child, but she becomes troublesome if it is for the sake of someone important to her. There’s a saying that troublesome children are cute. Right now, I am inclined to agree.

“That would be a much worse problem. Although I intended to kidnap you anyway, it is also a request from your sister. A certain rabbit-kin came to me in the late night yesterday to request it. They wanted me to kidnap you from the premarital ceremony.” (Sirius)

“Ane-sama… Senia…” (Reese)

“And I have message from your Nee-san. ‘Please be more selfish’… that’s what she said.” (Sirius)

“Being selfish… is that alright?” (Reese)

Yes, it’s fine for you to be a little more selfish.

Say it clearly when you don’t agree with the ceremony. It’s fine to have second helpings without reserve if the meal is delicious. I checked Reese’s complexion before I held out my hand.

“Let’s return soon. I refuse to make a cake as large as that one was, but I will certainly make a big cake for you to share with your sister.” (Sirius)

She wanted the cake after all, to nobody’s surprise. I want her to forgive me for breaking it soon, so I’ll bake a bigger cake than usual next time, one that could even be shared with the rest of her family. If she’s lucky, the cake will improve her father’s mood, and she can get on good terms with him.

She regained her smile after making up her mind, and then she grasped my hand that I held out.

“Please… kidnap me.” (Reese)

Chapter 43

As a Royal

I continued flying over the lake while holding Reese, and we arrived at the far bank without any problems.

I could already see the medical facility that Princess Lifell was at; realizing how close we were, I set us down in a small clearing.

We've come quite a ways distance from the castle, I confirm that there are no further pursuers using [Search] and a wave of relief surges through me. Now, my concern shifts to the one I kidnapped. She has been staring at me without breaking eye contact ever since I removed the mask hiding my face.

"We have arrived, Reese." (Sirius)

"…" (Reese)

There is no reaction from her. She is clutching my mask, her face red and hot to the touch.

Could she be fatigued? When I checked her with [Scan], her heart beat was just a bit fast, and her temperature was a little higher than average, but apart from that there were no conspicuous abnormalities.

"What's wrong Reese? Is there something on my face? (Sirius)

"Fuee!? I-it's nothing!" (Reese)

"It seems you were scared when I suddenly flew into the sky. Please rest easy, as we are now on the ground once more." (Sirius)

“I’m not concerned about that! Although this makes me happy, you should let me down now…” (Reese)

Whether she had regained consciousness or not, she was clearly flustered; she was incoherent and had trouble formulating her sentences fully. She quickly looked away, but could not hold it for long, as she soon returned her gaze to me with the same eyes as before.

The gaze felt familiar, and I wondered where I had seen it before. It was certainly during the old days. Starting the day following my in-depth chat with Emilia, I noticed her with the same gaze while she handed me a towel.

“I’m going to drop you down soon, will that be alright? (Sirius)

“J-just a little bit more! I’m still tired from my lack of sleep yesterday… that is…” (Reese)

The normal her would immediately scramble to get down, shy and modest. Yet it’s different today, and though her logic is flawed, I put up with it. Emilia had the same reaction.

And that means…

“Reese, could it be that you…” (Sirius)

“Reese!” (Lifell)

“Reese-sama!” (Senia)

When I was about to ask her, there were voices calling out for Reese from the medical facility. I see Princess Lifell and Senia running our way when I turn to look, and decide to bite my tongue, forcibly putting Reese on the ground.

Though she seemed disappointed when I did this, she quickly turned to run to Princess Lifell. A deeply moving reunion between two loving sisters…

“You… moron of a sister!” (Lifell)

— didn’t happen.

A hand chop from Princess Lifell smacked Reese on the top of her head, instantaneously breaking the tension and ruining the atmosphere. Reese, staring up at her sister, was dumbfounded. She clutched her head with a face that showed both confusion and disbelief.

“Why didn’t you explicitly express your dissatisfaction with this marriage!? Why didn’t you come to me first!? Who asked you to become my replacement!? Though I too thought this marriage was stupid, I can’t look past your idiotic actions!” (Lifell)

“Ane-sama… But I!” (Reese)

“You say that it was for my sake, but it feels like you just ran away from the real problem. You have to be more clear with your feelings in matters like these!” (Lifell)

“I’m… sorry.” (Reese)

“Good grief. But… I’m glad that you’re safe.” (Lifell)

Thereupon, Princess Lifell finally embraced her younger sister closely. At that instant, Reese’s expression collapsed, and she buried her face on her sister’s chest while her body trembled. They stayed like that for a while, until Lifell remembered that she had a few things she wanted to ask of Reese.

“I worried that you wouldn’t be able to properly protect your lips. However, it looks like my worries were for nothing. You are still as beautiful as ever.” (Lifell)

“That is… yes. Thanks to Sirius-san, nothing happened to me.” (Reese)

I met Reese’s gaze when she said that, and though she was blushing, she never looked away. Looking at her sister while she said that, Princess Lifell laughed with a complacent smile and beckoned for me.

“Can I have a minute? Other than kidnapping, what did Sirius-kun do?” (Lifell)

“I didn’t do anything other than carrying her.” (Sirius)

“It’s never going to be as easy as saying you’ve done nothing and getting away free, not when you make a girl look at you like this. You must properly take responsibility.” (Lifell)

I am a commoner, and though only by technicality, she is a royal. If she is, why is she trying to betroth us? Is it simply entertainment for her? Is she trying to help her sister? Preparation to recruit me to her faction in the future? All of the above?

Regardless of her motive though, she is correct in stating that the reason behind Reese’s recent behavior is my fault.

To gallantly appear in the middle of an unwanted marriage ceremony, to kidnap her, and then to sprint away in the middle of the night like some gallant prince in a story book.

If Reese likes me only as a Shishou, it would make sense. However, she does follow Emilia closely. Though I haven’t been confessed to, is it possible for to have been instigated by Emilia?

Nonetheless, my answer has already been decided.

“If she really desires it, I intend to take responsibility.” (Sirius)

“Oh?” (Lifell)

“Fuee!? (Reese)

By no means did I expect them to answer immediately. Princess Lifell opened her mouth wide while Reese let out a strange noise.

“However, that’s a discussion another time, so why don’t we put it on hold? Right now, the disturbance in the castle still hasn’t settled down.” (Sirius)

“… Well, Sirius-kun is right as always. Until the chaos has settled down for a bit, we’ll put it off.” (Lifell)

As expected, Princess Lifell became serious because of the situation. Reese stiffened up and looks around as I hand her to Senia.

“By the way, Sirius-kun is alone. Were you not able to bring your attendants?” (Lifell)

“Those two are running here, so they shouldn’t be much longer. With this, your request is complete, yes?” (Sirius)

“Yes, it’s perfect. I really appreciate that you were willing to accept such an absurd request and complete it.” (Lifell)

“Did you already know that I would accept the request?” (Sirius)

“Let’s not dwell on things from the past. Anyway, I will absolutely protect you from any punishment from the castle, since I requested this after all.” (Lifell)

She clenched her hand and declared so loudly. I see. Even without basis, her charisma as a royal is clearly felt from her sense of faith in her judgement.

“You told me it was safe for me to bring Reese here, but is it alright for me to confirm for myself?” (Sirius)

“Besides us, there are only a sufficient amount of servants in this place. I have selected only several people whom I can trust, so I feel more safe here than in castle.” (Lifell)

Her life is not being particularly targeted, but rather than being seen as a political tool for the castle, it is probably better to stay at a distance.

“There are various supplies, including food, that are stored in large quantities, so this place is easy to barricade even if the pursuers came. Though it is small, there is also a chance that we could be besieged. As such, there is also a secret exit.” (Lifell)

“Besides, we are trained to protect our master. It would be simple to deal with a few pursuers from the castle.” (Senia)

“I am also here. Being of the Imperial Guard, I will not let Hime-sama to be touched by even a finger.” (Melt)

Melt appeared before anyone noticed to support the princess’ words, as well as Senia’s.

“I think it should be safe here for at least today and tomorrow. Since I have sent one of my subordinates to the castle, I will let you know what has happened tomorrow morning.” (Lifell)

“Understood. After I reunite with my disciples, we will return back to school dorms…” (Sirius)

“Wait!” (Reese)

Before I finished talking about returning to school dorms, Reese let out loud voice. But, she was looking down embarrassedly, it seemed she herself didn’t know why she said that. Reese’s sister, who chuckled when looking at the scene, put her hand on Reese’s shoulder.

“Why say it out loud if you aren’t certain? We both know you are, so say it more clearly.” (Lifell)

“…Today, I want Sirius-san… not that. I want everyone… to stay around.” (Reese)

“In short, you don’t want him to go back?” (Lifell)

She nodded ever so slightly. Reese looked up at her sister, who winked in turn and said to me;

“Since the guest room is vacant, there will be space for three people. I also would like to thank you, won’t you please stay here?” (Lifell)

“…Understood. I’ll graciously accept your kind offer.” (Sirius)

Though I decided it without discussing with the siblings, they are likely to agree even if they don’t hear it.

Since there is no roll call before sleeping time in the school dorms here, I can feign attendance as much as I like by matching our stories with our roommates.

Emilia's roommate is before my eyes, and Reus' roommate is totally obedient, since he is Reus' underling. And since I live alone in Diamond Cottage, the disguise attempt is perfect. There probably won't be any issues with all three of us staying.

Reese had bright eyes when she heard my words, as she expressed her joy while clinging to Senia. If this were Emilia, she would probably be vigorously swinging her tail.

"Hime-sama, shall we go in soon? Although your physical condition has recovered, you are still recuperating." (Senia)

"That is true. Everyone, come on in and let's take a rest." (Lifell)

"Sorry, I intend to wait for those two outside." (Sirius)

I confirmed their location using [Search], and found that they were traveling at considerably high speeds. They will probably arrive in about 30 minutes.

"They are running here as per my instruction. Rather than resting inside, I want to greet them properly, as a Shishou should." (Sirius)

"I, I want to greet them too. Emilia and Reus are only running here because of me." (Reese)

"Is that so? If that's the case, I will accompany you guys too. Melt, can you bring table and chairs please? Senia, please prepare tea. We will wait here while watching the full moon with everyone." (Lifell)

"It can't be helped then. I'll go prepare it, but please put on something." (Senia)

"Understood. Incidentally, why don't we have a meal here? According to the chef, the meal will be ready soon." (Melt)

"That's not a bad idea. Shall we have dinner party here?" (Lifell)

I initially had planned only to wait for the two siblings, but before I knew it plans for a dinner party were in the works. Well, I suppose it couldn't hurt. It would be good for

cheering up Reese; a fun celebration with friends and family following the dismal ceremony she just escaped from.

Once it was decided, Reese went to get changed out from her wedding dress into plain clothing, while tables and chairs for everyone were prepared. Then, we waited for the siblings while drinking tea.

Melt and Senia had a pleasant conversation, while subtly positioning Reese between the two of them. Princess Lifell made jokes about the need for me to take responsibility as a man for various things. Eventually, I picked up on the presence of the siblings as they drew near.

Soon after, Senia and Melt both turned their heads in the direction the two were approaching from. Senia's ears twitching makes her seem indeed rabbit-like.

"Judging from the sounds that I can hear… there are two people? That number is too small for pursuers, right?" (Senia)

"It's alright, you're hearing Reus and Emilia." (Sirius)

"But aren't they unusually fast? I could hardly think of moving that fast through the forest." (Senia)

"It is because the forest doesn't pose a challenge for those two. Look, they've come already." (Sirius)

As I point my hand, Emilia jumps out with a large gust of wind from the forest. Her flowing silver hair shines, reflecting the moonlight.

She landed splendidly, as the breeze blows past her and she smiled at me.

"Thank you for waiting, Sirius-sama." (Emilia)

"Aah, thank you for your hard work." (Sirius)

She cheerfully closed her eyes and wagged her tail when I patted her head. She seemed to be sweating a little, but judging from her appearance there are neither wounds nor dirt.

Next up was Reus, who jumped out from the forest several seconds later after Emilia. He immediately switched to a look of frustration, as he noticed that Emilia had beaten him here.

“Dang it! Nee-chan is still fast!” (Reus)

“Huhuhu… I won’t yield to Reus in terms of speed. The privilege of being patted by Sirius-sama is mine.” (Emilia)

Were you guys being unusually fast because you were competing against each other? It seems that they were fighting for a chance to be pet by me, without my knowledge. Since Reus came closer with his tail wagging when I beckoned him over, I roughly brushed his head.

“Uhyoo-! Yeay!” (Reus)

“Even though I was the victor…” (Emilia)

“Don’t worry, I will comb your tail later.” (Sirius)

“Yes!” (Emilia)

As I wasn’t the only one who wished to reward the siblings, I soon brought them in front of Princess Lifell and Reese. Although nobody complimented them on their beauty due to their ragged adventurer’s apparel, Reese hugged Emilia and Reus dearly.

“Thank you. Both of you, thank you very much.” (Reese)

“Wait a sec, Reese. Although I’m happy, your clothes will get dirty.” (Emilia)

“Reese-ane, it’s a bit tight.” (Reus)

“It’s alright. It’s important that I convey my gratitude to you both properly.” (Reese)

Reese appeared not ready to release Emilia and Reus, so those two just stayed as is while smiling wryly. Furthermore, Princess Lifell embraced them from behind and the situation became a little chaotic due to the sudden cluster of people.

“I also want to express my gratitude. Emilia, Reus, thank you. Reese was able to come here safely because of you guys.” (Lifell)

“Please don’t mention it. We only followed what Sirius-sama said.” (Emilia)

“Yeah. However, we would’ve moved to assist Reese-ane even if you never requested it.” (Reus)

Behind the siblings, who were busy laughing, the meal was being prepared. The smell of the food wafted over to the two, and Reus’ stomach made a loud grumble. That reminds me, they hadn’t eaten anything since this whole thing started, so it’s no wonder that they were hungry. Both Emilia and Reus seemed tempted as they held their stomach with embarrassed faces.

“For now, shall we have a meal? Judging from appearance, everyone appeared to be hungry, right?” (Lifell)

“Will that be alright for us?” (Emilia)

“Well of course. Since the meals are prepared for Reese and you guys, please eat a lot. Ah, since this is not the castle, you don’t have to mind about manners.” (Lifell)

“Yahoo-! Aniki, are you going to eat too?” (Reus)

“Aah, should I? I’m also hungry.” (Sirius)

After getting confirmation from me, the siblings sat on the chairs, pressed their hands together and reached out for various meals. I also reached for the meal, eager to taste food normally intended for royals. As I expected, meals designed for the king and his family are indeed delicious.

“Delicious! It’s delicious, but I like Aniki’s cooking more.” (Reus)

“Well, we like Sirius-sama’s cooking the best after all.” (Emilia)

That is not something you should say while eating. You’ve made the chef smile bitterly, you know?

“I’m sorry. They are always eating my cooking, they are probably used to the taste by now.” (Sirius)

“I also like Sirius-san’s cooking the best.” (Reese)

“Just so you know, these meals were made by a very famous cook in Elysion. You all have interesting tastes.” (Lifell)

There were other shameful scenes, but the small dinner party ultimately ended peacefully.

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“Aniki, the royal family is amazing as expected!” (Reus)

“That’s right.” (Sirius)

After the meal was over, we were led to the guest room, where we would be staying. Despite the building having been designed as a medical facility, there were countless luxuries; even a hot tub in the bathroom. On top of that, it was segregated into two parts; for guys and for girls, both sides equally luxurious. As expected of a place for royals.

Reus seemed excited to go into the bathroom because it was large enough to seat ten people at a time, as opposed to the one-person bath I designed for the cottage.

“Are Nee-chan and the others in a similar bathroom?” (Reus)

“I think it’s similar. Though I doubt this is your intention, don’t go peeking to confirm. Trust my word on this.” (Sirius)

There's no way to peek to begin with, as the walls extend all the way up to the ceiling; there's no gap. I say it anyway to confirm, and Reus reacts by frantically glancing all around to make sure nobody heard my words.

"You don't need to tell me, Aniki. I will be murdered by Nee-chan if I do it!" (Reus)

"That definitely is the case. Even I would probably kick the bucket if I attempted to." (Sirius)

"I think if it were you Aniki, Emilia might invite you to join her. Reese-ane too… maybe." (Reus)

"What do you mean 'maybe'?" (Sirius)

"Well, I think Reese-ane has changed after we came here. Though it appeared some time ago, I strongly feel the pink sensation that was let out by Nee-chan and Noel-ane from Reese-ane." (Reus)

This guy is as naturally sharp as ever.

How would Emilia react if she found out about Reese's feelings? I said I want to travel together with everyone, and since I have yet to confirm that with Reese, I don't think there would be any hard feelings.

However, female jealousy is scary. I had a co-worker in my previous life who was a womanizer, who ended up being stabbed in the stomach with a kitchen knife due to the web of jealousy surrounding him. Luckily for him, he had blocked the knife partially with a magazine, so he lived the attack. However, the story alone was enough to frighten me.

Emilia and Reese will probably have a talk about it, but I would rather it not devolve their relationship into one of bloodshed and hatred. It's probably best that we all talk once we're all done in the bathroom.

"Well, it will be good if nothing changes as a result of this." (Sirius)

“That’s true. I don’t think it will be a problem, after all, we all like you, Aniki! Now it’s time to wash you. I’ll start with your back.” (Reus)

“Ok, I’ll depend on you.” (Sirius)

After my turn, it’s his, so I step out from the tub to wash his back. His arms and legs were fragile to the point of breaking when we first met, but now his body was healthy and his muscles were bulging because of his training. Nothing to say about his mind, I am proud of his growth physically as both a father and a Shishou.

I remember while I’m washing his back that his age is almost the same as the disciples I had in my previous life. They, too, would wash my back. Being a Shishou has some definite benefits.

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We finished washing each other in silence, and it didn’t take long. Right as I was about to get back into the tub, someone opened the door and walked inside.

“Excuse me.” (Melt)

For a moment I thought Emilia was going to charge in, but the one that came in was the Imperial Guard, Melt.

It can’t be helped that Melt was a bit rude during our first meeting, due to his job. He was cautious and hostile towards us then, as we were unknown elements from his point of view. Because of this, there was a strained atmosphere as he walked in.

“What happened? It is alright if I get in too?” (Melt)

“Alright, go ahead.” (Sirius)

For the time being, Melt soaked in the bathtub a short distance from us. Personally, I think one shouldn’t enter the bathwater before washing one’s body, but this is neither my house nor does it follow my rules. So, I leave it be.

The silence continued for a while, until the time for soaking in the water was past. Reus, who stayed close and guarded against Melt, ultimately broke the silence. His curiosity outweighed his caution.

“Err, Melt… -san?” (Reus)

“… What is it?” (Melt)

“Melt-san, do you… hate beastkin?” (Reus)

“Well, I surely have said rude things in front of you guys, so it can’t be helped if you thought that.” (Melt)

When Melt turned in our direction, a wry smile broke out on his usually firm face. What! You can make such an expression too?

“I am a man who exists for nothing other than to protect Hime-sama. This is a poor excuse on my part, but when Hime-sama caught that strange illness, I was impatiently seeing everyone as an enemy. When you three came out of nowhere and started getting closer to her, I thought of nothing but trying to remove you and prevent you from worsening her current condition or giving her another strange illness.” (Melt)

“Got it, I understand. If I thought someone posed a threat to Aniki, I would try to remove them as well.” (Reus)

“It’s fine to talk casually with me, no need to use formal language. Right now, I’m just Melt, not an Imperial Guard. After so long, it’s pointless to give you excuses, and not only did you rescue Hime-sama, but Fearis-sama as well. It is only proper that I say this as myself, titles and pride aside…” (Melt)

And then, Melt bowed to us. He lowered his head to us who are younger than him.

“… I am very sorry. And thank you.” (Melt)

I'm not sure whether or not it's because of… nude socializing… but we got on slightly better terms with the Imperial Guard Melt today.

◆ ◆ ◆

On the following day, I woke up feeling oddly… heavy.

When I glance to both sides to determine the source of that sensation, I can see a sliver of silver on my left, and a ball of blue on my right.

"Good morning, Sirius-sama." (Emilia)

"G-… good morning." (Reese)

Perhaps I should say, it was Emilia and Reese. Those two were wearing slightly immodest gowns, which was the cause of the strange sensation. Following this, I heard a sound from the foot of the bed, near my feet.

“Anyukii…” (Reus)

Reus was sleeping below me a little bit. Although the parlor has a king size bed that can easily fit four children like us, why did it become a situation where I am a makeshift pillow?

“… Good morning. Now, I want explanation.” (Sirius)

“That is because staying by Sirius-sama’s side is the best.” (Emilia)

“I-I was… told by Ane-sama that I can go…” (Reese)

“Kupi-…” (Reus?)

Although I’m certain they didn’t do anything apart from sleep, just what happened after I went to sleep yesterday?

After I got out from the bathroom, I went straight to sleep on my own bed, for certain. Since there is another bed on the side, Emilia should have slept there.

It dawned on me as I was waiting for an explanation that I probably fell asleep so quickly because I was in such a comfortable bath for so long. Combining that with my lack of sleep the last few days, and it resulted in a lack of awareness from myself. I was far from vigilant towards them anyway, but I should’ve noticed their approach.

In short, they just slept next to me after seeing me asleep. That’s what they said. Was Reus… upset because he was left out?

Wait a minute? Does the thing about me being sandwiched and Emilia and Reese staying on the same bed mean that they still have a good relationship with each other?

“You guys… are very close.” (Sirius)

“Yes! Because I like Sirius-sama and Reese.” (Emilia)

“Since I also like Emilia and Si-… Sirius-san.” (Reese)

Rather than just being good, their relationship seems to have deepened.

I’m a little put off by the thought of polygamy, due to my moral compass from my previous life. Now that I think about it though, in this world, such a thing isn’t uncommon.

That said, it doesn’t change the fact that they are still my disciples. Right now, it’s too soon to think about marriage. Besides, we don’t know yet what will happen in the future. Therefore, I judge it best to watch over them as their Shishou, and nothing more.

In the first place, I already intend to support their growth as people and develop them to become self-sufficient. What they choose to do beyond that is up to them. Still, as a man, to have one or two wives… eh? When I think carefully, it’s not just one or two, an elf has also placed a reservation of sorts on me…

“Sirius-sama? Do you want to sleep some more?” (Emilia)

“…No, it’s nothing. We should get up soon.” (Sirius)

Let’s stop thinking about that. Won’t it be better to decide after meeting with Fea? Although it feels slightly wrong to postpone it, I secretly think that they will find a better man than me in the future.

“Cake!?… Eh? Aniki, where did my cake go?” (Reus)

I am really jealous you can do things at your own pace, Reus, only now waking up.

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After that, everyone got up and met for breakfast in the dining room.

A maid entered in a hurry and whispered to Princess Lifell. The scene was totally similar to the situation when Reese was brought to the castle.

Since there is no mistaking the fact that this is related to Reese, I eavesdropped without any reserve this time, but I was surprised at the topic.

“Is that… there are just two, including a servant? Let me discuss this with our guests, and in the meantime, you all should be on guard.” (Lifell)

Princess Lifell stood up after giving instructions to the maids. She looked at us with serious face and said;

“The person who went to check on the situation in castle has returned and for some reason, Otou-sama is coming.” (Lifell)

“Tou-sama!?” (Reese)

“Right. However, he was led only by a single servant armed with nothing but weapons for self-defense. As such, I don’t see them coming to fight, but please stay here just to be sure.” (Lifell)

“Ane-sama! If that’s the case, I also… together…” (Reese)

“I’m happy that you wish to assist, but please let me talk with them first. Sirius-kun, if something happens, please take Reese and run away.” (Lifell)

“Understood. I doubt it will come to that, but I will spare no effort when it comes to Reese.” (Sirius)

“Please.” (Lifell)

While saying that with a small laugh, she beckoned for Senia and Melt, and the three of them headed out from the dining room. Those that remained sat still drinking tea, but as expected, Reese was unable to calm down. She was too worried about her sister and father. Emilia drew closer and clenched her hand.

“It’s alright Reese. Your sister will be able to persuade your Otou-san.” (Emilia)

“Yeah, I believe in Ane-sama. However, for Tou-sama himself to come, I’m worried something will happen…” (Reese)

“Please calm down, Reese.” (Sirius)

Yeah, the biggest factor here is that the King came with almost no attendants. This means that a fight is unlikely, and he probably intends something else. If my thought is correct, the King won’t hurt either sister, Reese or Lifell.

“Think about it. If they wanted to catch you, they wouldn’t come with just two people. I think they probably came to talk.” (Sirius)

“Conversing doesn’t seem like something Tou-sama would do, not with regards to me. He only talks to me when it is absolutely necessary, you know?” (Reese)

“It’s purely my intuition. We’ll see how it develops soon enough…” (Sirius)

“Don’t you dare make jokes!” (Lifell)

I think the two probably will meet each other in the next room but Princess Lifell’s angry voice could be heard until the dining room. I reflexively invoke [Search] but there is no fighting.

“That was Lifell-hime’s voice… right?” (Reus)

“That’s not normal. Sirius-sama, what should we do?” (Emilia)

“It’s alright, wait for a bit. They are just quarrelling.” (Sirius)

“Ane-sama… what’s wrong?” (Reese)

Reese and the siblings were agitated after hearing her voice resonate around the entire facility, and the dining room’s door opened to Senia walking in. She didn’t seem to be in any sort of hurry, but she did seem particularly annoyed.

“Senia, what’s going on in there?” (Reese)

“You’ll understand when you get there. Reese-sama, everyone, let’s go to the living hall where Lifell-sama is.” (Senia)

“Us too?” (Sirius)

“Yes. There is something that everyone here needs to hear. Ou-sama has come, but as this is an extenuating circumstance, please don’t feel the need to be overly formal.” (Senia)

“Let’s go Reese. We will be there as support, so don’t be afraid to talk to your Otou-sama.” (Emilia)

“… Yeah. Thank you.” (Reese)

Reese, having made up her mind, accompanied us as we were led by Senia to the living room. After Senia knocked on the door, we entered upon hearing Princess Lifell give permission.

We are finally going to meet the King… Reese’s father, Cardeas.

“…So you have come?” (??)

The man who sat on one of the sofa in the living room was Cardeas.

He has short burning-red hair and sharp eyes like he were hunting for prey. Credible rumors circulating in Elysion say that his presence can be felt even when he sits, and even those who know nothing of him still feel the urge to kneel before him.

My first impression of him was he was sharp like the edge of drawn sword, to say nothing of his status as a king. I understand why Reese felt the urge to shrink back.

However…

“Are you guys Reese’s friends?” (Cardeas)

When he turned his face to us, the clear outline of a slap on his right cheek ruined his whole image. Was that the barely audible sound following Lifell’s angry shouting?

“You picked now of all times to arrive? For the time being, please sit down next to me.” (Lifell)

In delicate atmosphere, we were made to sit next to Princess Lifell. Emilia and Reus were desperately holding in their laughter when they saw the handprint on the King’s face. You guys… Please forgive them if they laugh, you are the king after all.

“I called you guys because I want to inform you of the result of the investigation from yesterday. I was just made aware that the ceremony from yesterday… was fake.” (Lifell)

“…Ane-sama, one more time please.” (Reese)

“It was a fake ceremony. Put simply, would it be easier to understand if I said its true purpose was to weed out corrupt and dirty nobles?” (Lifell)

After all, was it so?

The people seen during yesterday’s ceremony were only those who had poor conduct or some notoriety to their name. In other words, rotten apples. If the ceremony were simply requiring the presence of influential people, those like the Principal would have been invited. That he wasn’t was definitely evidence to the contrary.

When I recall it, I do remember the reaction of the castle guards being unusually fast. They didn’t fail to catch a single noble that tried to run from the assembly hall, and they moved to capture everyone. To lure them all with honey, and catch them a single go. They appear to function a lot like the police in my previous life. They can’t do much, but they are clever with how they do function within their boundaries.

The real problems are the damage caused by such a move, and the grudges incurred from said move.

“Don’t you understand, Reese! Not only was he keeping this a secret from me, but also from you, whom he used as a decoy in his plot! What are you thinking, this was originally supposed to be your daughter’s wedding!?” (Lifell)

“If I tell you, won’t you please drop it!?” (Cardeas)

“Of course! Your reasons for making my cute little sister bear the brunt of these consequences, you had better tell me!” (Lifell)

“That’s why I didn’t say it! For the sake of collecting and capturing the fools, I’m going to think about preparation and time, no matter how long it takes!” (Cardeas)

Even if the engagement with Princess Lifell was stopped because of the illness, even if forcing the ceremony to Reese who was concealed specially, the preparation to capture those guys who were selected didn’t go waste. I think this King is a fearless calculating man.

However, Princess Lifell will not stop because of such reason.

“I don’t care such thing! It would be fine for me to go because I was cured!” (Lifell)

“Shouldn’t you be spending time recuperating!? Trying to pick the right choice was quite distressing!” (Cardeas)

“If that’s the case, give birth to more girls! You only birthed boys; a brother I don’t care for, a brother who has his nose stuck in a book all the time, and one with zero appeal in any regard! How long do you think I’ve had trouble with men for!? Then, finally, a younger sister appeared!? She’s so cute, you can’t blame me for getting attached!” (Lifell)

“My aim is not to have more children!” (Cardeas)

… I think the talk has begun to derail.

The king that I heard from Reese was a cold figure, who only spoke when necessary. However, the man in front of us quarreling is none other than a father with aspirations abound, with no trace of the aforementioned personality.

Of course, most surprised out of all of us was Reese, whose image of the King was far different than the picture in front of her. Her eyes were wide open in shock, and her face was stiff.

“Say… will you calm down a bit more?” (Reese?)

“Yeah… you’re right. I cut loose too much.” (Lifell)

“Me too. It became intense after such a long time.” (Cardeas)

Is that the kind of exchange people are supposed to have after a long absence? Senia, Melt and the servant who waited behind the King were calm and collected though, almost as if it were a daily occurrence.

“So, is that the reason why we were called?” (Sirius)

“Of course there are other reasons. For starters, my request to kidnap Reese.” (Lifell)

“I’m going to take over from here. Although you were asked by Lifell, it wasn’t wrong to obstruct the ceremony. Normally, I would pass down some kind of punishment but since the ceremony was sham, I’ll forget it.” (Cardeas)

In other words, since the ceremony was sham, he’ll forget about it. Although he is the king, was it challenging to convince other nobles to let it go?

“You took such a drastic action. Is it because of the push and pull from all directions this time?” (Lifell)

“Like you said, there are a lot of complaints coming. But, I’ll leave everything to the masterminds.” (Cardeas)

“Even if that was for the sake of taking out the trash, wasn’t it overkill?” (Lifell)

“The guys who put the magic stone in you were also tied to this. I couldn’t let this go as an easy matter. After all, if I had, you would’ve had trouble moving freely, wouldn’t you?” (Cardeas)

Not only was this event designed to take out the corrupt nobles, but it also served as a form of revenge for the King’s daughter. Even better, the king can use this even to set an example for others. After experiencing such a thing even once, other nobles would be much less

likely to act out against Lifell, especially once she succeeds her father for the throne. Although it depends on how severe the scale of her policies are, she is less likely to face undue resistance. She can measure the success of her policies by the changes in the citizens.

“It is because this will serve as a lesson, I couldn’t handle this poorly. Also, please don’t worry, your actions will remain a secret.” (Cardeas)

“That’s the power of royal authority.” (Lifell)

“It’s alright to say and feel how you wish about my actions. If I were to punish the one who saved my daughter, I couldn’t justify my own use of royal authority..” (Cardeas)

What is this? I can’t see this man as the one who looks at Reese with cold eyes, you know? In my opinion, he is seen by his followers as nothing but sweet old man.

“Hey, Aniki. Were our actions pointless?” (Reus)

“There was no such action. At the very least, Reese can feel relieved and I think she has grown up.” (Sirius)

“Sirius-san is right. Although I’m not sure I have grown up, I was really happy when I saw everyone coming to the assembly hall.” (Reese)

Reese, who was confused at the gap between her image of her father and reality, regained her sanity and smiled at us. I realized the King was gently looking at Reese the moment she looked away. His cold behavior towards Reese was apparent, but it didn’t seem to be motivated by dislike.

When I was thinking about that, Princess Lifell who sat nearby leaned forward, and she began to talk with a serious expression.

“About this matter, I understand what Otou-san wants to say so I understood that it was for my sake. However, there is one thing I don’t get it. It is about Reese.” (Lifell)

The King's face becomes cloudy when the talks proceed about Reese, and then he was looking here with bitter face. Although he seems like a person easy to befriend with, what's with this sudden change?

"In the beginning, I thought she was hated and separated on purpose because Reese isn't a royal. However, Reese's situation is clearly more complex than that, as she was just used as a decoy. Normally, other people shouldn't hear this but I want to listen clearly. Otou-san, what do you think about Reese?" (Lifell)

"…" (Cardeas)

"If you like her, say it. If you hate her, please say it clearly! Don't you understand that being half-hearted hurts a child the most?" (Lifell)

"Ane-sama, Tou-sama is troubled. Please don't pursue this further, I'm already fine." (Reese)

"No, it's not good if we don't clear this up here and now. Answer clearly, how do you feel about Reese?" (Lifell)

I thought we should leave because this sounds like a conversation for family alone, but I realized that my presence was needed when Reese grabbed my sleeve trembling. I didn't even need to bring up leaving, you want me to stay until the end, don't you?

Princess Lifell made such a declaration as she beat her first on the table in front of her, and then the King looked at Reese with wry smile.

"What… do I think? Truthfully, I also don't know." (Cardeas)

"Tou-sama. I… Should I not come here?" (Reese)

"That's wrong, Faeris. You're not the one at fault here. In truth, it is I who is at fault, as I am indebted to your mother, Laura." (Cardeas)

He drank the prepared tea, and solemnly stared at the sky through the window. We all intuitively understood that from this point on, he spoke not as the King of Elysion, but as a man called Cardeas.

"…Laura will surely curse me for this." (Cardeas)

Cardeas muttered sadly.

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Extra:

In the assembly hall where Reese was confused, at the time when the wedding cake got hit and destroyed by magic…

"Haa!? Just now, I have a feeling that something important was broken!" (Rodwell)

"Me too, headmaster!" (Magna)

The intuition of a headmaster and his subordinate who were working overtime were invoked.

Chapter 44

Mother's Will

Cardeas Bardfeld

He was born as the eldest son of the previous King, he was a suitable man to be the next King with rich talents in various fields.

But he longed for adventures rather than being a king.

He had confidence and sharp intuition, and since he liked to move his body around, he worked out and sometimes went out for adventures. Naturally, as an eldest son, he was not allowed to do that but there was someone who supported that aspiration.

That person was Cardeas' younger brother, Arious.

Arious had calm and gentle personality. He was a man that loved to read books. He was the complete opposite to his brother but the relationship between these two seemed favorable.

And then, the chosen next successor of the king was… the second son, Arious.

The previous King judged that the unmotivated eldest son was not suited to be the king even if he's capable. Luckily, Arious' capability as a King was good enough, and he was recognized by the surrounding people. Since Cardeas was uninterested since the beginning, he trained his body while supporting his younger brother in his shadow.

Coupled with Arious' virtuous personality, the calm political climate continued. And then, he (Arious) was married to a noble and the eldest child was finally born. Cardeas, who judged not to worry about a successor, after the second child was born several years after, decided to go out for an adventure that he had been longing for.

It was objected by his surroundings but Arious permitted and supported him.

“I want you to look at the world in my place.” (Arious)

He made up his mind for the sake of his younger brother who gave his support.

“Ten years. I’ll come back after ten years and I will support you for the rest of my life.” (Cardeas)

So he promised and Cardeas finally went out on a journey of adventure.

It was fun, and had hardships but he enjoyed the adventures he longed for. Visiting around the world, he gathered various experiences and grew stronger.

Several years passed in no time, the day when Cardeas received request from the guild to earn income was when he met Reese’s mother, Laura.

In the same ventures, they got along well miraculously and formed a pair. They protected each other’s backs, it was probably inevitable for them to be attracted to each other by going on same adventure and they became lovers.

They slept together many times and when they thought about marriage… the ten year period already drew near.

Cardeas was troubled. Although it’s better to return with Laura, it wasn’t certain that people won’t think of her as nothing but an adventurer or commoner. Above all, he knew Laura hated it.

There were two choices.

To separate from Laura, go back to castle and support his younger brother. Or pretend to forget about it and go on journey with Laura.

The one who decided for him, who was troubled, was none other than Laura. She taught him everything and furthermore, she was the one who supported him.

“It’s a promise right? Cardeas who doesn’t protect (the promise) is not the Cardeas that I love.”

Cardeas decided to return back to the castle because of her words, he separated from Laura and returned to Elysion.

And then, the one who was waiting for him in the castle was… the figure of the younger brother who was weakened and lied down in bed.

Arious got sick one year ago, and when Cardeas returned, he (Arious) had no remaining life. It was too late to treat him, the weakened younger brother welcomed him back while laughing desperately.

A few days later… Arious passed away.

Arious’ child was still too young, it’s too early to succeed him. While the country was grieving, Cardeas decided to look over the country that his younger brother protected.

“I (Ore)… No, I (Watashi) will become the king and protect the country!” (Cardeas)

Cardeas adopted Arious’ three children and he became Elysion’s king. By the way, one of the children was Princess Lifell.

Of course there was dissenting opinion but if he, who had the capability of being a king since the beginning, would have stood out at the top. The political measures (taken) based on intuition and experienced gained from his adventures were doing well so the opposition faction gradually remained silent. He married a certain famous noble and the eldest son was born, he spent every day handling the official businesses… and when he noticed, ten years had passed by.

On one day, one letter arrived for him. The paper was dirty and worn out but it seemed it came by hand because there was his own seal stamped. And the only one who has the seal is none other than that person. There was no mistake, it’s coming from the ring that he handed over to Laura during his farewell.

There was single paper enclosed in the letter that arrived. There was a single sentence written that shook him on that paper.

[Take care of my daughter.]

Cardeas searched the origin of the letter and sent his subordinate to investigate.

According to the report, Laura had already died because of an illness and it was known that she had a daughter, Faeris.

Before they were separated ten years ago, she already conceived Cardeas' child. When the case was investigated, there was no other man's image found so he thought, without a doubt, that the child that was conceived at that time was his daughter.

Laura thought that a commoner child might become a hindrance to Cardeas. Thus, she raised her without telling him.

He returned to Elysion without any concern, and he couldn't forgive himself to leave her alone for nearly ten years. Cardeas immediately sent a letter to take custody of Reese.

And when they met face to face, he could see Laura's face in Reese.

He was thinking… what kind of face he should show to his daughter that he neglected until now.

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After finishing the monologue, he walked close to the window and sighed.

"I don't intend to show a side of a father at this late hour but I won't neglect you." (Cardeas)

"Tou-sama…" (Reese)

"But you were involved this time. Just for the sake of you not being rolled up with foolish nobles, I acted cold as if I'm not interested but… that was an act. You know, I, who chose to be a king rather than a father, am the worst kind of father." (Cardeas)

He wants to protect his own child, Reese, but he can't do it as a king of the country. And he chooses the country. As a king, he is not wrong which is why he can't forgive himself because his sense of responsibility is strong. Moreover, the reason he avoids Reese is probably because of his feelings of guilt towards Laura.

"Laura enjoyed adventures from the bottom of her heart in the same way as me. However, it (going for adventures) was taken away because of me, and even if the responsibility (of bearing a child) removed afterwards, Laura already passed away, and that's why… I was too ashamed to face you." (Cardeas)

When she conceived a child, she should not be able to continue going for adventures. To live in a town that barely got enough income, how hard was it to raise a baby alone? Because she was a woman with strong body and mind.

"Well, Faeris. I left you and your mother so don't you want to say something by being rolled up with this good-for-nothing father? If you like, I don't mind being hit. I'll accept everything." (Cardeas)

While laughing dejectedly, Cardeas called for Reese. Reese stood up in response to the call, walked slowly in front of Cardeas, and took a deep breath.

"Please don't decide it on your own!" (Reese)

She slapped him with outcry but she didn't put strength because it didn't make a sound.

"Why did you decide it yourself? Please don't say that when you don't know about mother's and my feelings!" (Reese)

"Got it. If you hate me, it's alright to hate me as much as you like." (Cardeas)

"That's wrong! Tou-sama is mistaken in the first place! Kaa-sama… didn't hate Tou-sama." (Reese)

"But I… to you guys…" (Cardeas)

“Kaa-sama said this before she died. Do not hate Tou-sama…” (Reese)

“W-what!?” (Cardeas)

As soon as Reese said she didn’t hate him, Cardeas opened his eyes wide because he was surprised. From the standpoint of a king, he felt unrest to the extent of the matter regarding Laura and Reese was stabbing his heart until now.

“Kaa-sama talked how many times about Tou-sama’s splendor, she talked proudly as if that was she herself. At that time, I didn’t really understand and I was under that Tou-sama already died but I clearly understand it now. Kaa-sama was proud of Tou-sama. Tou-sama as a King…” (Reese)

“Laura… you…” (Cardeas)

“Therefore, I also can’t blame Tou-sama who lives as a King and I just can’t. But, there is one thing I want to hear. Was it… a good thing for me to be born as Tou-sama’s daughter?” (Reese)

“Of course! When I found out that Laura died, I felt hopeless as if there wasn’t able to leave you as a momento!” (Cardeas)

“I’m glad. It’s enough for me to know that you feel glad about me being your daughter.” (Reese)

“Faeris… are you going to forgive me?” (Cardeas)

“I forgive you and I’m not angry. Besides, Tou-sama, please call me Reese.” (Reese)

When Reese smiled, Cardeas who was stiff broke into smile. The heavy burden he felt about Laura is solved and he felt refreshed.

“Huhu… That’s right. Reese, thank you for telling me about Laura’s words.” (Cardeas)

“Yes!” (Reese)

The mutual misunderstanding is cleared, it was a very good mood but there's one unsatisfactory matter. Since he was seen as father for a period of time, I understood what was the thing Reese would ask for now.

"Please excuse me, your Majesty. May I say something? As a parent, won't it be good to pat the head if you praise a child?" (Sirius)

"Well, it is surely true. Thank you, Reese" (Cardeas)

"Aah…" (Reese)

Her hair became disordered by a bit of a rough caress, Reese was pleased from the bottom of her heart when she was patted by her true father.

The gap between Reese and her father was finally closed. It's probably still awkward but at least it isn't a bad thing.

When the tension in the air disappeared and Senia prepared new tea, Cardeas' servant was about to talk to the King.

"Your Majesty. Won't you affect government affairs if you don't return soon?" (??)

"Is that so… should I return?" (Cardeas)

When Cardeas looked at Reese by accident, he met disappointing eyes of his daughter. Looking at such eyes like a puppy being thrown away, he closed his eyes while thinking and then he asked his servant.

"Well, Jin. What happened to my cheek right now?" (Cardeas)

"A trace of Princess Lifell's slap has clearly remained." (Jin)

"With that kind of face, it's not possible to go out as a king in front of his retainers." (Cardeas)

“That’s true. Fortunately, this is a sanatorium. If you get into the hot spring, the swell will probably go down after a day.” (Jin)

“Hmm, should I do that? I’ll be troubling you.” (Cardeas)

“There will be no problem. Well then, I will return to the castle.” (Jin)

“I leave it to you.” (Cardeas)

The attendant called Jin left the room without making sound, and then Cardeas who remained sat on the sofa and invited Reese to sit beside him.

“Reese, if it’s alright, will you tell me more about Laura? Besides, I want to know how you have been doing in school.”

“Y-yes!” (Reese)

Princess Lifell and others felt relieved looking at the scene where parent and child peacefully sat down on a sofa, Emilia and Reus too nodded in satisfaction. Somehow this matter has been solved amicably so Reese won’t see me as a substitute as a father in the future.

“Oh yeah, do you know this, Tou-san? Reese has someone she likes.” (Lifell)

“Ane-sama!? Do you have to talk about it now!?” (Reese)

“Hou? So, which of these two is…” (Cardeas)

It’s already too late to run away… err rather, exit from the room. From now on, I think it should be the talk between families and I was planning to borrow the kitchen to make some kind of sweets.

By no means, since it seemed it was going to be troublesome, I didn’t run away.

“Aniki, Reese-ane’s Tou-chan was glaring awfully when I was about to go out from the room, you know?” (Reus)

“It’s just your imagination. Well, I’m going into the kitchen so what should I make? The talk will be livelier if we eat cake.” (Sirius)

“That’s right.” (Emilia)

We went into the kitchen and we got permission to borrow a part of the kitchen to make a cake. I was shown what ingredients are available here by the chef and since there are various kinds (of ingredients), it seems I can make Reese’s favorite cake, cheesecake.

Although there was no oven, I decided to make oven-ish equipment while having Emilia go gather the ingredients. The power is coming from magic formations and I can make it since I am able to draw a magic formation for heating. The oven-ish equipment is completed when I draw the magic formations on an airtight container that is made from heat resistant material. Since it is easy to make, it is a one time disposable (equipment).

I mix the ingredients that Emilia prepared, placed it into the oven and after several minutes… a cheesecake was completed. I had a hard time because of the simple oven but there shouldn’t be a problem with the taste.

The cook was looking eagerly at such a flow of events while taking notes. I think there is no meaning if there isn’t an oven-ish equipment but it will be mass produced and advertised by Galgan Company soon.

I left that place for about two hours, Reese and others were having pleasant chat in the guest room.

The ill feeling between those two is almost gone, Cardeas had the perfect father figure as he laughed and enjoyed talks from Reese.

“Reese had become stronger. Although she was a child who could say nothing when we met for the first time.” (Lifell)

“First, thanks to Ane-sama. And also everyone. Especially to Sirius-san… Aah, Sirius-san, where have you gone?” (Reese)

“I was making this.” (Sirius)

Reese noticed when we returned and she was excited when she saw the cake that I held. Princess Lifell and others were having loose lips and they seemed happy too. The only person who didn’t know about this, Cardeas, was looking at cheesecake with question mark on the face.

“Hmm, it was said that you are Sirius. What is this?” (Cardeas)

“This is the cake that I made. Although it’s almost time for lunch, would everyone want to have this freshly made cake?” (Sirius)

“Of course. Otou-san too, please eat it because it is absolutely delicious. Senia.” (Lifell)

“Yes. Sirius-sama, please sit on the sofa since I’m going to cut the cake.” (Senia)

“Please.” (Sirius)

Since Senia volunteered, I decided to leave the distribution of the cake to her. I was given a slice of cake by Senia and I sat on the same spot where is was a while ago but Cardeas’ stare was dreadful. Perhaps, I was observed because I am Reese’s master (Shishou). Although there was only a King at present, his stare was intensely strong and I can only imagine that he was staring here.

‘You (Temee), did you put your hands on my daughter?’… with a Yakuza-like voice that can be heard, which doesn’t feel out of place at all.

When I looked at Senia while eluding that gaze, as one would expect from an exclusive attendant for a princess, she equally cut the cake according to the number of people present just by looking physically. She ended it with slight food testing, and while she arranged the sliced cake in front of each person…

“… Oi. Is my portion the only one that is small?” (Cardeas)

Only the portion for Cardeas was clearly different in size.

I usually cut it in the size for ten slices but there will be only six slices if the cake is cut by Cardeas' portion's size. Alternately, there will twelve slices if the cake is cut as same portion for Reese and Princess Lifell.

It was natural for him to bring this up but Senia who was asked acted indifferently.

"No, isn't equal?" (Senia)

"Which part of mine is equal? No matter how you look at it, my portion is the smallest." (Cardeas)

"It's equal, you know." (Senia)

"But this is…" (Cardeas)

"It's equal." (Senia)

"No, that's why…" (Cardeas)

"It's equal." (Senia)

"…Hmm." (Cardeas)

Oi, he was defeated.

When I think again, Senia loves Reese like a younger sister and she should be angry when Reese was made as a decoy. Since she as a servant cannot slap him like Princess Lifell, anything is good as long as she can get revenge. Compared to slap, this is adorable…

"Muu!? This wonderful rich taste! Is there more?" (Cardeas)

"There is no more. Reese, cheesecake is delicious, right?" (Lifell)

"Yes! It is more delicious when I eat it together with everyone!" (Reese)

"Well daughters, will you share a bit (of your cake) with me?" (Cardeas)

““No!”” (Reese/Lifell)

“Muoooh!” (Cardeas)

The effect was outstanding.

Despite being in agony, the daughters were laughing happily to their frustrated father. Reese probably longed for days like this all the time.

“Yeah, Reese. There is one thing that I want to hear.” (Lifell)

“What is it Ane-sama?” (Reese)

“I heard from Sirius-kun that you were given a cheesecake several times when you came to visit my place but… I wonder why this is my first time eating this?” (Lifell)

“… Eh?” (Reese)

“That hanky-panky laughed is very cute. But, I must be firm.” (Lifell)

“Ane-sama… forgive me.” (Reese)

“… Nope.” (Lifell)

… Yeah, it’s everyday skinship between sisters.

I purposely didn’t ask what happened to Reese after that. If we can say one thing, we, the guys, just quietly left the room.

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After that, we had lunch and when we entered the hot spring one more time, Cardeas barged into the bathroom.

Although he is a king, he has lean strong muscles because he was a former adventurer. When I praised his muscles, for some reason Reus tried to oppose by showing off his muscles.

“I’m not going to lose! How is it, Aniki!” (Reus)

“Hoho, this much is like youth. It’s very splendid muscles!” (Cardeas)

Cardeas seems that he doesn’t mind about Reus’ language at all. They showed their muscle to each other and while praising it, they both laughed loudly and looked more like a parent and a child more than with Reese. Are they birds of the same feather?

By the way, the uproar became calm after a short while. Cardeas suddenly talked to me as soon as he sat down next to me.

“I heard about you from my daughters. It seems that they asked you for various help.” (Cardeas)

“I only did it because I wanted to do it.” (Sirius)

“Hmm, you’re just being sincere, huh? Nevertheless, that merit of yours by training those muscles to the limit by carrying Reese from castle. I agree that Lifell is trying to scout you. How about this, instead of Lifell, how about working for me?” (Cardeas)

“Thank you for your offer but I have to decline.” (Sirius)

“I thought you’d say so.” (Cardeas)

Was that no use because he didn’t show his disappointment for being rejected? Cardeas leaned against the wall and sighed, muttering while staring at the ceiling.

“… By the way, what do you think about Reese?” (Cardeas)

“She’s very sweet and gentle child, and she works hard at everything. However… she is not suited as a royal.” (Sirius)

I saw Cardeas laugh with a smile. He was astonished with such straight answer, he pat my back while laughing loudly.

“Hahaha! You’re surely right. It’s true that she doesn’t suit to be a noble, let alone a royal. If she enters a brothel, she will be eaten in no time.

“I like Reese-ane the best when she enjoys eating meals.” (Reus)

“That’s right. She lived as a commoner, together with Laura, which was the best. I was thinking of bringing her back to the castle and give her royal education but going to school is probably the best conclusion.” (Cardeas)

“Will that be alright? Because Reese has a lot of acquaintances among her classmates and she enjoys going to school every day.” (Sirius)

“Hmm, please take care of Reese from now on. But…” (Cardeas)

And then, he put his hand on my shoulder with strength. Err… I can hear creaking sounds from my shoulder, and it’s painful.

“I won’t allow you to go out with Reese.” (Cardeas)

‘I am not going out with her’… that is something that I couldn’t say because there was an unspeakable strength at present. It seems I can’t win against the strength of a father who thinks about his daughter.

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We stayed in the sanatorium until evening, and because it was bad to leave the school dorms empty for two days, we returned at once.

On the following day, we except Reese went to school and since we were asking Magna-sensei for alibi work, he was slightly angry because we skipped out of class for two days.

After that situation, I intended to conclude it myself.

First is Reese. Her secrets remained as secrets after all. I appeared during the premarital ceremony but all nobles aware about it were all captured and it was announced that she was employed as a decoy. Besides, given that many parties were involved from the castle side, she can come to school again when the lingering excitement cools down.

Reese is living together with her sister till then in the sanatorium, and since we come occasionally too, she passes the time happily.

There are more than fifty nobles that participated in the following ceremony.

It seemed that 80 to 90 percent of nobles lost their titles, were driven out from Elysion, or they were being dealt with in secret. In the beginning, the intuition is paralyzed by small bad conducts, so when it grew bigger, it became difficult to stop them. Despite the repulsion from the said person who got purged, they couldn't do anything but stay silent when the collected evidence of their injustice was submitted to the King.

And then, there's Reese's marriage partner, Kura. He was sad when his father was lumped with the group of bad nobles but he seemed to look cheerfully bright for a short while as if he was liberated.

His crime was not serious, he was transferred to remote territory away from Elysion with several attendants and… he left Elysion with that weak constituted girl. Though they may have a hard time from hereafter, they will probably be alright because there was a report saying that he was happily snuggled with that girl.

Lastly, it's about us.

It was said that the disturbance of the ceremony was fully instructed by the king, and the one who kidnapped Reese was a private soldier for him. Since we were in disguise and no evidence of our figure or even trace was found, we had no problem to walk around in town from now on.

We got to know the King and that the meeting in that bathroom wasn't the last meeting. The King didn't roll us up with politics and of course because we also don't want to get involved. I met Princess Lifell through Reese at best and it's only to give cakes.

If Reese is able to go to school, this will become a thing of the past.

When speaking about changing aspect, it comes to the matter of Emilia and Reus finally residing in the Diamond Cottage.

When I allowed them to stay in Diamond Cottage, Emilia immediately brought her luggage into the room and she finished moving in less than an hour. I knew I prepared about this beforehand but I didn't think she was this eager to be here.

Although the room is smaller than before, that is because two beds are set up in Emilia's room. That is the space for Reese, it is decided for her to stay here when she returns back to school.

Despite trying to be stopped frantically by his roommate, Reus finished moving in, the Diamond Cottage where I used to live alone suddenly became lively.

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Then, several days later… the harvest festival began in Elysion.

The whole town was filled with liveliness, everybody enjoyed the festival and there were carts lined up in place. The whole town of Elysion was excited because of the festival and it went on for several days.

"Although there are usually many people, today there is an unexpected number of people, Aniki." (Reus)

"Don't get lost, you know." (Sirius)

"It's alright. There is no way we will lose sight of Sirius-sama." (Emilia)

While we pushed through waves of people, we were caught with same festival mood and we walked towards downtown. We enjoyed the festival by looking at various stalls on the way, window shopping, and buying meat skewers.

“Although a meat skewer is also good in festival, I want Takoyaki.” (Sirius)

“What is Takoyaki, Aniki!? Is it delicious!?” (Reus)

“Aah, it’s delicious. Since I’m going to make it next time, first of all, stop swinging around the meat skewer with both hands.” (Sirius)

“Understood!” (Reus)

Reus ate a big volume of meat skewers with undividing focus and then we arrived at the meeting place. This is where we plan to join with Reese but it seems she hasn’t arrived yet.

“Sirius-sama, please open your mouth.” (Emilia)

“Aah… hmm, it is somewhat lightly seasoned but it’s not bad. Where did you buy it from?” (Sirius)

“Yes, the classmates open a stall over there. They seem to properly make the best use of the seasonings that I thought of.” (Emilia)

I waited for few minutes while eating foods that I received from Emilia, and then Reus who finished eating meat skewers seemed to find a person in the crowd.

“Aniki, isn’t that Lifell-ane over there?” (Reus)

When I looked to where Reus pointed, the ponytail styled hair was dyed with blue color from (original) a red color, Princess Lifell who wore brilliant one piece type dress came while folding arms with Melt. By the way, I gave her hair dye product as a present.

Senia and Melt wore a dress clothes one rank lower (from Lifell) as usual and their hair was dyed, they attracted a bit of attention but they skilfully melded in the downtown area.

“Why are you separating from me? You’re going to get lost if you don’t stick any closer.” (Lifell)

“B-but I…” (Melt)

“Getting unrest just by folding arms…” (Senia)

“Right. Since we are engaged, face it firmly.” (Lifell)

From the story that I heard, they were coming to the festival as engaged noble couples with a servant. For the sake of getting along with that setting, Melt passed in front of us peacefully while feeling troubled.

“Aren’t you going to talk with them, Aniki?” (Reus)

“I’ll leave them alone for now. It’s best to leave those three alone, you know.” (Sirius)

Seeing the disguised happy couple off, there was the figure of Reese when I incidentally turned my sight towards the inner part of shopfront. However she was not alone, there was a large builded man on her side.

“Tou-sama, shall we eat that this time?” (Reese)

“Meat skewer? Hey store owner, I want you to grill them all.” (Cardeas)

The man besides her had his hair dyed black and wore commoner-like clothing was Cardeas.

It seemed he sneaked away from the castle, maybe he wanted to enjoy the festival with his daughter. Maybe the ministers and the subordinates are doing their best with teary eyes about it this time.

Those two ate up the meat skewers which they ordered in no time. Next, they were eating the grilled food with both their hands. Their peaceful appearance when eating is really heartwarming but… they were eating vigorously with no sense of stopping even when they already on their tenth order.

It is a scene where you can be convinced that those two gluttons are unmistakably parent and child.

“Aah, Sirius-san!” (Reese)

When Reese vaguely looked around, she noticed our presence, she waved her hand and ran here.

Cardeas walked here from the rear with sharp gaze while eating meat skewer but he didn’t say anything about her daughter being excited.

“Tou-sama bought me a lot of things!” (Reese)

I could see her smiling bright without any feeling of anxiety and the (relationship) gap with her father was also buried.

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